



Dishes with
a wild taste
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Strength in hope Living with HIV



Zhao Liang's documentary is intended to educate a culture that still forces its HIV patients to keep their disease a secret and live in fear.

Together: We Have a Beautiful Hope follows three HIV patients and gives a compassionate portrayal of how they live with their disease.

Read more on Pages 12-13



Local bands
try their hand
at boutiques

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'Free' college
leaves grads
few options

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Groupon late
to lead the
China market

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Author aims
to export his
characters

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Page 9 Linking medicine and faith

A Finnish artist's new exhibition encourages people to rethink the origins of "Chinese" treatments such as cupping and acupuncture.



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Traditional fever remedies

Synthetic medicines aren't the only way to bring down a fever - try one of these herbal alternatives!

Foreign media focuses on nation's happiness

"Making people happier" will be the key theme of the government's work, press outlets from around the world reported in their coverage of the current National People's Congress and Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference meetings.

On the eve of the gathering, "the chatter has been noticeably less on GDP growth and more on happiness," noted *The Atlantic* in an article published days before the 12-day political event began last Thursday.

The overarching theme of China's 12th Five-Year Plan, crafted to guide the country's 2011-2015 development, is the shift in focus from growth to development and people-oriented growth, said the article, noting that the government has stressed the need for improved quality of life more than fast growth.

South Korean media said that expanding the benefits of growth to more people is an important focus of this year's session.

Britain's *Daily Telegraph* noted that Beijing has begun evaluating its officials' performance

by their ability to make people happy, instead of by the economic growth they create.

Chinese BizNews, a US newspaper published in Chinese, reported that raising the happiness index was a prominent topic at local political meetings that preceded the national congress.

People hope the ongoing political meetings open the door for balanced and sustainable development of the Chinese economy and spreading that prosperity to the nation's 1.3 billion people.

Japan-based Chinese newspaper *Jinocnews* said the grand development plan formulated during the "two sessions" will continue "the Chinese miracle" and that the public expects its country to strengthen and their lives to become happier.

During the next five years, China will forge ahead under the guidelines of putting people first and taking a scientific approach to creating a more harmonious society, said France-based *European Times*.

(Xinhua)



Foreign media are picking up on a change in China's development focus.

IC Photo

Gov joins campaign to stop child begging

By Han Manman

At the urging of Premier Wen Jiabao, the Ministry of Civil Affairs announced its plans to cooperate with 18 other government departments in rescuing child beggars on Tuesday.

Child beggars are frequently abused and exploited. How to rescue them has been a public issue since an online campaign began in January to reunite lost children with their families.

Organized by Yu Jianrong, a professor at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the campaign calls on netizens to post photographs of child beggars and kidnapped children on a microblog read by parents.

The campaign, the largest of its kind in China, achieved its first big breakthrough on February 8 when it reunited a father with his 6-year-old son who had been missing for three years.

Wen said during an online chat with netizens at the end of February that he was following the campaign closely.

He said there are many reasons children turn to begging, including poverty and family issues, but that child beggars still deserve care.

Acknowledging that rehabilitating child beggars is difficult, Wen said the increased public attention and joint intervention from the government could prevent more children from ending up on the streets.

Dou Yupei, vice minister of civil affairs, said poverty is the main reason children end up



Many young beggars return to the streets soon after they are sent home or to a shelter.

IC Photo

begging, though some are the victims of divorce or human trafficking.

"A lasting solution should start with strengthening social security and social assistance from the local governments and protecting children from irresponsible parents," Dou said.

"During the next five years, we plan to build more county-level assistance centers in regions with many homeless children, and provide psychological counseling, cultural education and skills training at the 310 aid centers built since 2006," he said.

"We also encourage the public and non-governmental organizations to participate," Dou said.

"I think it is wiser if we make better use of existing institutions to help homeless children rather than creating more organizations," said Ma Li, director of a child rescue center in Xuzhou, Jiangsu Province.

Ma said many official child shelters are not fully occupied, making it a waste of resources to establish new institutions for the aid of homeless children.

Though providing welfare homes is a good way to offer basic support to homeless children, Ma said most run away again after they are sent back to their homes or to the institutions.

He said he conducted random checks during Spring Festival on eight children who had been sent back to their homes after running away and found that only one child stayed.

It's a big headache for both the government and NGOs, he said.

Dou said the ministry could only care for homeless children who accept help.

"More than half of the homeless children on the streets are petty criminals. The ministry cannot force them to go to assistance centers if they refuse," he said.

Detention law amended following strange deaths

By Zhang Dongya

The Ministry of Public Security submitted its draft of an amendment to national detention ordinance to the State Council, the *Beijing Times*, a local daily affiliated with the state-owned *People's Daily*, reported Wednesday.

The amendment would expand the rights of criminals and suspects, including allowing detainees to receive visits from family before they have been sentenced.

Detention laws have been under scrutiny following a string of mysterious deaths in the nation's prisons.

In 2009, Li Qiaoming, a Yuxi, Yunnan Province resident, was detained in Jinning County for cutting down trees without authorization. Local police attributed his death in prison to a game of "hide-and-seek" with other inmates. Another inmate in Hebei Province was said to have died in prison "from drinking cold water." In Guangdong, one inmate "died because he was sleeping under a quilt."

All three cases share a common problem: a lack of police presence in detention facilities.

The amendment would increase police presence in prisons and ban correctional officers from arranging deals with long-term inmates to manage new arrivals.

The present detention regulations, issued in 1990, have gone unrevised for 21 years. Many items are seriously out of touch with modern prison reality.

A survey conducted by the Law School of Renmin University showed that prison police in both developed and undeveloped areas have stated that regulations in the present detention law do not suit the current prison system, or that they are "out of date and rough in diction."

In the 52 items listed in the

law, the word "criminal" is used more than 71 times. The supporting measures for implementation of the detention law used the word 150 times in its 63 items.

Revisions to these laws replace the word with suspect, defendant or criminal as appropriate.

The amendment would double the size of the law, assigning different treatment to different classes of prisoners. It would add items to protect the legitimate rights and interests of the suspect, defendant and criminal. Torture and extended detention would be prohibited.

The revised law contains detailed procedures for escorting suspects, defendants and criminals. Transporting a prisoner for investigation, prosecution or judgment will require approval from county-level public security or the court.

Detainees will be required to have a physical exam before transfer and after. If a patient is injured during transfer, the transferring officers will be required to file a report and show proof of how the injury occurred.

Unlike current regulations that ban detainees from visitation before sentencing, the new law would allow suspects and current defendants to meet with or correspond with their family during the investigation.

A professor at the Law School of the Renmin University Chen Weidong described the management of China's detention facilities as "one-dimensional," with an emphasis on reform through labor.

Lawyers called for respect to the inmates. Some appealed for segregation of inmates being held for investigation or long-term correction to avoid a repeat of the Yunnan's "hide-and-seek" fatality.

Their proposal has not been included in the amendment.

Di'anmen restoration on schedule

By Chu Meng

Di'anmen, the "Gate of Earthly Peace," once the southern end of ancient Beijing's central axis, has been missing since 1954.

But the gate, demolished as part of a road expansion program, may be returning following its appearance on the city's list of historical structures that require preservation.

Kong Fanzhi, director of Beijing Municipal Administration of Cultural Heritage, submitted a proposal on Tuesday to rebuild the gate and renovate the entire central axis. Kong hopes to submit the area for world heritage protection within five years.

Di'anmen used to be visible by looking south toward Jingshan Park from the Drum Tower. It is the only historic gate missing from other eight gates on the iconic "central axis." The original spot is now the crossroads of Di'anmen and Ping'an avenues.

"It was only a one-story building, unlike the other eight grand gates like Qianmen or Yongdingmen. It made up part of the city wall," said Huo Xiaowei, a researcher at the Beijing Research Institute of Culture and History.

Kong's proposal is not the first attempt to revive Di'anmen. The Beijing municipal government and Cultural Heritage Adminis-



Di'anmen may be rebuilt at a new location. The original gate in this photo was demolished in 1954.

Photo provided by Beijing Youth Daily

tration have frequently debated whether to reconstruct it as part of the greater Drum Tower and Houhai renovations.

Previous proposals were shelved due to concerns that rebuilding the gate at its original location could disrupt traffic. Large restoration plans are even harder, because the area is home to many protected courtyards and hutong, as well as a large residential community.

Kong's proposal would move the reconstruction site slightly southward from the original spot but still on the axis. It would avoid intersections.

"The renovation and

UNESCO application are two different things," Kong said. "The renovations are not limited to the old town, but include important cultural heritage sites from the Great Wall to Yuanmingyuan," he said.

The city government is planning to set up a team to coordinate the UNESCO application process. The application will be made in the next five years.

The "central axis," which runs north to south directly through the heart of the capital, extends 7.8 kilometers from Yongdingmen to what was Di'anmen. Other gates that lay on the line include Zheng-

yangmen, Tian'anmen, Duanmen and Qianqingmen.

It is often referred to as the "dragon's vein." China's emperors were believed to be sons of the dragon, and consequently built many of their most important structures – such as the Forbidden City – along this axis.

"The axis is very unique. Protecting the central line preserves the uniqueness of the city," Huo said. He welcomed the new Di'anmen construction plan and said it was justifiable if done in the spirit of cultural affection.

"It will enhance the geographic identity of the area," he said.

First group of islands ready for lease

By Han Manman

Rich people have an infamous passion for trying to one-up each other's purchases. It seems that after buying resorts, jets and yachts, their next goal will be to buy islands.

A list of uninhabited islands in Zhejiang Province is attracting both individuals and companies. The move was made possible by a law passed last year that allows legal entities to lease uninhabited islands off the country's coast.

The first batch to be leased includes 30 islands near Ningbo, Wenzhou, Zhoushan and Taizhou. Leased islands can be used for tourism, commercial fishing or industry, the Zhejiang Provincial Ocean and Fisheries Bureau said.

The bureau said the first batch is located close to the mainland and suitable for reclamation.

Zhejiang contains around 2,900 islands, each with 500 to 1,000 square meters of space. More than 90 percent of them are uninhabited.

According to the Island Protection Law, which took effect last March, individuals may use uninhabited islands for up to 50 years after obtaining approval from the government and ecology department.

But securing permission doesn't give renters free reign.

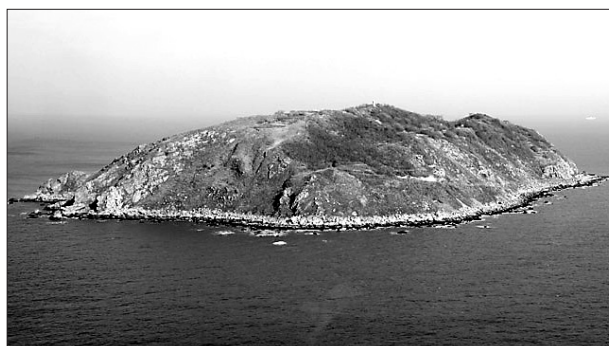
The Zhejiang bureau said owners are not allowed to make serious alterations to the island's physiographic features.

The bureau said purchasers are required to submit a reclamation scheme to the local authorities before building on the island. Rent varies from 100,000 to more than 100 million yuan.

"We won't lease any of our islands unless the investor comes up with a reasonable and convincing business plan," said Liu Shunbin, deputy director of Zhoushan Bureau of Ocean and Fisheries.

"It is also impossible to rename the island as you wish, although some of our islands are named after numbers," he said.

Liu said there are no



Private islands may offer a new investment option for the mega-rich. CFP Photo

restrictions preventing foreigners from acquiring a lease.

"From my personal understanding, there are no limits on who can apply for the right to use the islands, no matter if you're applying as an individual, private company or foreign-owned enterprise, so long as the development activities are within the permitted framework," he said.

The listed islands have already attracted some investors.

"I'm thinking of leasing an island near Wenzhou and turning it into a tourist destination," Wenzhou businessman Huang

Xiangxun, president of the Shanghai-based Haobo Chair, told *China Daily*.

But the enthusiasm for building an island resort may cool when business operators discover how expensive it is to transport construction materials by sea, Tang Hongsen, a professor at Zhejiang Ocean University, said. It's also costly to equip the islands with electricity and clean water.

China has more than 6,900 islands with more than 500 square meters above land and more than 10,000 smaller islands.

International Film Festival to open next month

By Li Zhixin

The first Beijing International Film Festival (BIFF) will be held April 23 to 28.

The festival will include a film forum, marketing negotiations, concerts, documentary screenings and a memorabilia exhibition.

The committee has received 420 films and 100 short documentaries from more than 50 countries. Oscar nominees *The Black Swan* and *The Social Network*, as well as the Berlin Film Festival opener *True Grit*, are registered for the festival, the committee said.

More than 60 domestic film institutions, such as Changchun Film Group, Zhujiang Film Group, Western Movie Group, August First Film Studio, Huayi Brothers and Tianjiao Beifang Film Group, are scheduled to participate.

Fifteen presidents of international film festivals, including Venice International Film Festival, Berlin International Film Festival, Toronto International Film Festival, Tokyo International Film Festival and Pusan International Film Festival, will attend the first BIFF.

The opening ceremony will be held at the National Center for the Performing Arts, and the closing ceremony will be at the Olympic Sports Center. Festival movies and documentaries will be screened at 20 cinemas in the central business district.

The festival coincides with the Beijing College Student Film Festival, Beijing Youth Public Welfare Film Festival and Beijing Ethnic Movies Show.

The festival's logo, a revolving rainbow windmill, was released at a press conference last Friday.

"Film is also called the seventh art. It brings together architecture, music, painting, sculpture, poem and dance. The seven blades on the windmill stand for film and the five perforations on each symbolize the five continents," said Zhao Dongming, executive director of the committee.

BIFF is organized under the auspices of the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television and the Beijing Municipal Government. The organizing committee plans to make it an annual event.

Free ride through college?

Not so fast for graduates of a national teacher training program



CFP Photo

By Liang Meilan

In 2007, to improve teacher quality, a policy was implemented at six universities under the Ministry of Education to provide free teacher training.

Qualified students could apply for free schooling in the six designated universities in exchange for a commitment to work at elementary and middle schools in their home province for at least 10 years, including two years in rural areas.

Four years have passed, and the first wave of around 10,000 graduates is now busy searching for jobs.

However, this seemingly promising wave has been confronted with unforeseen challenges that threaten to undermine the ministry's entire program.

A tough choice

Li Ning, a 22-year-old English major at Beijing Normal University, is among this special group.

Born in the countryside and raised in a remote town in Hubei Province, Li studied hard and scored high in the college entrance examination four years ago.

He was a top student, but his cash-strapped family could not afford the 5,500 yuan yearly tuition at his university of choice.

Thanks to the ministry's policy, Li was able to attend college for free.

According to the contract Li signed with the university and the Department of Education in Hubei, Li had his tuition waived and also his housing fee — 1,200 yuan a year — paid for. In addition, he was given an allowance of 400 yuan a month.

Li was active in many societies and won dozens of prizes in his college years.

As an intern at a publishing house, he won praise from his boss for his strong translating skills and sense of commitment.

But now that he's about to enter the real world, he's confronted with a dilemma.

"I don't think of teaching as a dream job, even though I signed the contract," he said. "Maybe I'm being selfish, but honestly, I long to be a successful translator or interpreter."

The penalty for defaulting on the contract is 70,000 yuan — about one and a half times the amount he was granted.

Li said he is trying every means possible to persuade his parents and relatives to raise funds to pay the penalty.

Like Li, a large number of free-education students have no desire to teach, especially in rural areas. They signed the original contract because it gave them an opportunity they otherwise wouldn't have had to pursue higher education.

Li's story reflects the lack of a reasonable "exit solution."

"Those who find themselves not suitable for a teaching career can exit the program only by dropping out of school or paying for the penalty and retaking the college entrance examination," said Xiong Bingqi, professor with Shanghai Jiaotong University and deputy director of 21st Education Research Institute. "It forces students who show no interest in teaching to be a teacher, while those who actually want to teach have fewer opportunities."

"This is an alarming conflict between planned education and market need," he said.



Zhao Hang/CFP Photo

Students from the free-teacher-training program hunt for jobs.



Three parties must sign the contract that lets students enter the free-teacher-training program.

CFP Photo



Students in Beijing Normal University's free-teacher-training program.

CFP Photo

City versus rural area

Li is one example of a student who didn't consider the consequences of signing a contract.

He Liheng, Li's classmate from Henan Province, intends to fulfill his commitment, but he faces a different set of challenges.

He majored in science and technology and English, but "there are only three schools in Zhengzhou (Henan's capital) that are seeking such graduates, two of which are privately owned and another one already employs a guy with a Master's degree," he said.

His other option would be to

teach in rural areas, which isn't very appealing.

"I just want to live up to my parents' expectations and put what I've learned into full use in the right place," he said.

Xiong said He's attitude is understandable.

Many students choose to join the program because they want to teach, but the majority hope to stay in first- and second-tier cities.

Unfortunately, the program was intended to increase teacher quality in rural and impoverished areas, thus the requirement to teach there for at least two years.

"Students should familiarize themselves with rural education during their college days through internships and visits," Xiong said, adding that students need to understand that their work in rural areas carries significant meaning and value.

"Working and living conditions in rural places are very poor," said Zhu Yongxin, a member of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. "So relying on the free education policy is a way for the country to cultivate a large group of prominent teachers willing to work in underdeveloped areas."

Poor placement mechanism

Liang Lili studied the food process industry while in college and, not surprisingly, can't find any elementary or middle school postings for a teacher with her specialty.

"I feel like I was cheated," she said. "The policy said students like me could teach in local colleges, but there's only one college in my hometown that has a food industry program. I'm being asked to teach content completely irrelevant to what I studied."

Li Fang, originally from Lhasa, Tibet, is a graduate from Northeast Normal University. He was completely discouraged after attending two job fairs aimed at graduates of the free teacher education program.

The ministry requires education departments to arrange job fairs for this group of graduates, but for unknown reasons, Tibetan

schools have failed to participate.

Even worse, the autonomous region doesn't have an employment policy regarding the employment of free-teacher-education students.

"In the beginning, I was attracted by the certainty of getting a job," Li said. "But now I can only wait."

To date, there are still nine provinces that haven't enacted related employment policies, which puts thousands of students in Li's position.

For schools that committed to the policy, they are often passing up on qualified individuals who don't come from the teaching program.

"The competition is already really tough," said an admissions director at Shanxi Normal University. "It will be exceptionally difficult placing a thousand more graduates in local schools."

As a response to these pressures, some provinces are forcing students to return to their hometowns to teach, leaving them to no choice.

These developments have attracted wide public concern.

"It's unfair to allocate students. They need to compete on an open platform to get jobs," said a teacher at Northeast Normal University. "It is totally irresponsible to not give them any opportunity. Furthermore, it harms local education."

So far, there are no plans to adjust the policy, but the ministry has been responsive. A section on its website lists employment openings and information about job fairs.

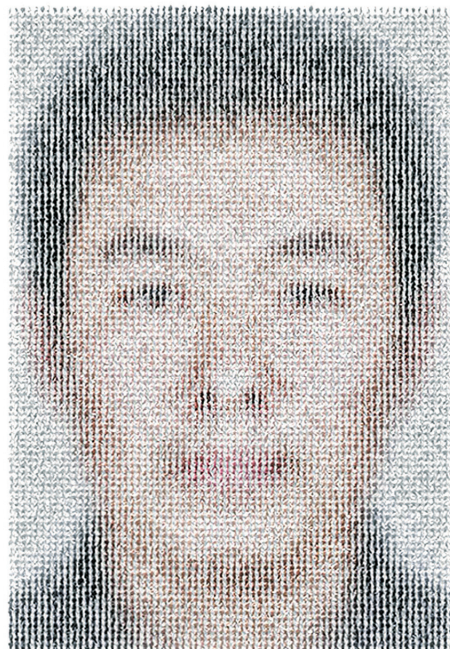
Meet Mr Average

Research finds 28-year-old Chinese man the world's most typical person

Many would consider themselves the average Joe, but a recently *National Geographic* identified a 28-year-old Han Chinese man as possessing the world's most typical face. The magazine says 2011 will mark the year the world's population crosses 7 billion.



The composite image of a 28-year-old Han Chinese male is currently the world's most typical face.



Does this guy look familiar to you? If so, there's a reason: it's the most common face type on the planet. *National Geographic* just released a multimedia effort called "Seven Billion," aimed at looking at "the human being" now that there are, well, 7 billion of those cavorting around the planet.

The findings are fascinating: He's a guy, he's Han Chinese, he is 28 years old and there are 8,999,999 others out there that look a lot like him.

The image was created by the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, which had collected the photos over a 10-year period from

technology research programs.

It was developed for *National Geographic's* "Population 7 Billion" series on the human race, which also showed that males just about outnumber females in the world.

The series also revealed how the world's most typical

person is right-handed, makes less than \$12,000 per year and has a mobile phone but no bank account.

A first language of Mandarin is spoken by 13 percent, compared to 5 percent English – and 19 percent of all people are Chinese citizens, compared to 4 percent American.

From the editor

A funny concept opens to debate

Many people are wondering whether it's really fair to use an all-Chinese face as a symbol for the world's entire population, and John Tomanio, senior graphics editor for *National Geographic* magazine, agreed that the concept is open to debate.

"There are many ways to define typical, that's true," he said. The decision to go with an average Chinese face was based on the idea that the world's "largest ethnic group was Han Chinese."

However, that ethnicity could change over time, and in fact, the population of India is projected to surpass the Chinese population by 2030. At that time, India is expected to have more than 1.53 billion people, while China is expected to reach its peak population of 1.46 billion and begin a slow decline.

By 2030, the total tally of the world's population will be well on its way to a projected peak of 9 billion or more.

If current trends hold true, the generic face of humanity will eventually be Indian, not Chinese. And there may be more changes in store as global population shifts, Tomanio said.

"We didn't mean it to be provocative," Tomanio said. "But afterward we realized, people might want to talk about this." **(Agencies)**

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Groupon starts China venture

Who will be the winner in the war of 'tuangou'

When Gaopeng.com, Groupon's Chinese version, finally and officially goes live again this month, it will have some 1,700 local "tuangou" sites to compete with. But, if anything could sum up the difficulties Groupon may face, it is that the language of the country it's trying to take by storm already has a single, specific word to describe its business model.



Groupon's new China site may have a hard time winning local users.

IC Photo

A bad start

GaoPeng, a daily-deals site that represents Groupon's venture into China, finally went live late last month, and has now begun accepting registrations.

But the company's entry into the Chinese market has not been as easy as it had expected. The Guangzhou-based site, cooperating with local Internet portal Tencent, went live for just 24 hours last month before getting pulled down.

According to local newspaper *Southern Metropolis*, Groupon's staff supposedly jumped the gun, and Tencent took emergency actions to shut down the servers, a possible sign that two companies may be in a joint venture, but aren't exactly warm partners just yet.

Shutting down the website shows the desire by Tencent to control this venture, said the report. "Tencent is sending Groupon a little warning: on Chinese turf, you listen to me."

But for budding Western startups like Groupon, China represents untapped potential. The country has 450 million Internet users, a number that will grow to become 42 percent of all global Internet users by 2014. And according to the *Wall Street Journal*, the Chinese group-buying search engine Tuan800.com claims such daily deal

site transactions will pass \$2.4 billion in sales by the end of the year.

"Groupon has a lot of pressure to grow," says Forrester analyst Sucharita Mulpuro, who points to sites like Amazon and eBay, which reports that half their revenue comes from outside the US. "They don't need to be the top player in any international market. They just need to have a presence."

Groupon as Henry Ford

Groupon's first business move into China started with the acquisition of CityDeal last May. The German startup's management was absorbed into Groupon and eventually put in charge of its China initiative, which involves using funds from the company's recent \$950 million investment, from Venture Capital firms including Andreessen Horowitz and Digital Sky Technologies, toward hiring up to 1,000 employees by next month.

Groupon reportedly offered to pay job candidates as much as \$30,000, more than quadruple what its competitors are paying. The huge wage increase is clearly meant to attract China's brightest to the company.

But building a competent staff won't be quite that easy.

In fact, the company's rapid expansion is proving problematic, according to local

reports. Groupon's marketing director for the China region, Ren Xin, resigned recently and if the site launch brouhaha is any indication, the company's newly-minted relationship with Tencent could already be souring. Whereas Groupon apparently wants to launch and expand quickly, Tencent seems to prefer a much slower approach.

If Groupon wants to succeed on the Chinese front, it must build a formidable sales force like the one it has developed in the US.

The company intends to meet that goal by hiring those 1,000 employees, but if a recently university jobs posting is legitimate, the company may be placing too much emphasis on academic credentials and consulting experience and not enough on knowledge of the local terrain.

"If you hold a Masters degree from an internationally leading university, have working experience from a reputable bank/consultancy, have startup experience, you will be able to join the management team, otherwise we will also find a suitable position for you," reads the post.

Having a strong sales force is essential, but many of the company's senior managers appear to be foreigners or ethnic Chinese who were born in other countries.

Market analyst

Can Gaopeng succeed in China?

Though Gaopeng went live, the company obviously feels confused and not acclimatized, said Huang Yide, CEO of a local electronics wholesale company ePathChina.

"Groupon is coming here with a well-established brand, ample capital and global management expertise, but local providers can be very, very competitive, and it may be a very, very difficult market for the startup," Huang said.

Many Chinese group purchase websites

have begun to promote themselves with advertisements since Groupon entered the local industry.

In addition, new platforms for group buying have already risen up in China. Taobao, the country's biggest online retailer, launched a group purchase platform recently and welcomed all group purchase websites and providers to use its platform for promotion.

Qihoo 360, a search provider, also launched its group purchase platform with

more than 200 domestic group purchase websites joining its force.

Faced with the furious local competition, Groupon's situation in China seems to be tense and bleak, Huang said.

There will be resistance, said Jack Ma, chairman of Alibaba Group. With Groupon entering the market, it will intensify competition and improve overall services. But customers will be the big winners, Ma said.

(Agencies)

Huawei to tap EU market

By Huang Daohen

Huawei, the nation's largest telecommunication-equipment manufacturer, is close to winning a contract to supply the mobile network for London's subway system, the UK-based *Financial Times* reported.

The \$80 million deal would place underground mobile transmitters along the ceilings of London's Tube tunnels in time for the 2010 Olympics, allowing travelers make calls while underground.

Local mobile operators Vodafone and O2 have also placed bids, but the report cited unnamed UK government officials as saying that they expect Huawei to be picked.

The report said UK government security advisers have not objected to the deal.

Winning the bid could help Huawei strike a significant deal with British mobile operators and expand its overseas business in Europe, said Wen Yijun, industrial analyst at Oriental Securities, Beijing.

British Telecom may favor Huawei because the company could offer its products for 25 percent less than competing bidders, Wen said.

Success in the UK could put the company back on track after a failed 2010 US technology deal with Sprint Nextel, the country's third largest mobile phone operator.

The Sprint deal was smashed by US government officials who called Huawei a "national security threat," citing the Chinese military background of founder and CEO Ren Zhengfei.

Last month, the US Foreign Investment Committee blocked Huawei from acquiring the US server firm 3Leaf, citing the same rationale.

Huawei later posted a public letter in which it opened itself to US investigators and called for compensation for the ruined 3Leaf purchase.

Wen said Huawei's failures in the US are a sign of the government's harsh trade strategy. Many Chinese companies have been prevented from expanding into the US by the government during recent years.

Wen said the US has a virtual economy while China has a real one based on manufacturing. To keep the virtual economy afloat, the US has to sell its national debts abroad and block them from returning home.

"This may be why the US always crushes overseas investments in the name of national security," Wen said.

An end to the one-child policy?



Many better-off families want a second child.

An Xin/CFP Photo

By Zhang Dongya

The Population and Family Planning Commission is considering relaxing family planning policies over the next five years, Wang Yuqing, deputy director of the Population, Resource and Environment Committee under the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), said last Sunday.

Wang said allowing couples to have a second child will not lead to a significant population increase, and he personally agrees with a gradual relaxation of the one-child restriction.

The new policy could be implemented by 2015, at the end of the government's 12th Five-Year Plan that begins this year.

At present, in rural regions and for ethnic minorities, families are allowed to have a second child if the first is a girl. Wang suggested this policy could be gradually extended to China's cities.

The country's demographic dividend – a surplus of working-age people that has promoted rapid economic growth in the past 30 years – began to decrease starting in 2009. Research shows that the present demographic dividend can last for another 25 years. Adjusting the family planning policy is considered an effective way to prolong the beneficial period.

The birth rate in major cities like Beijing and Shanghai has been decreasing for years. Wang said it is consistent with international trends: high costs of raising a child have changed the way the younger generation thinks. With increased living standards, populations drop naturally; in China this would have happened even without the government's control policy, he said.

The one-child policy has controlled about 100 million births since it was enacted in 1979.

Comment

Benefits and drawbacks to multiple children

It is lonely to be an only child. Since parents have brothers and sisters, it's lively and warm when they get together during holidays. But in the future, we won't have these big families any more. Only children are independent, but they are also self-centered.

But the high cost of raising a child in big cities make people hesitate to have a second child.

The government should relax the policy because people will make their own choice according to their situation.

– Guo Xiaolu, 29, civil servant in Chongqing

Policy should keep pace with the times

China's one child policy has been a great success, but large changes like that always have unintended consequences. A lower population has led to greater wealth per capita, just as the European Renaissance was sparked after a significant population decline during the 14th century due to war, famine and illness.

While no one can predict all consequences perfectly, the benefits of the one-child policy are too easy to ignore. Concerns about social and professional abilities, gender and age imbalances, and marital troubles are all significant, but care must be taken that population growth continues to decline year-on-year, otherwise the accomplishments of the last 30 years

may be imperiled.

– Thomas Christensen, 26, American working in Beijing

A social dilemma

This is a difficult issue. The one-child policy is kind of ruthless, but considering the population problem in China and the world, it seems like a fine solution. China has a large population base, so there could be rapid population growth if we give up the one-child policy. Meanwhile, resources are limited, and can only support a certain number of people.

Another thing I want to say is Chinese people have more or less accepted the policy; after all, it has been carried out for more than 30 years and the generation of only-children have grown up. Considering the living pressures, people will never have as many babies as before.

– Xiao'er, 50, Chinese American

Only-children face more problems

Many of those born under the one-child policy are now 30 years old and facing a lot of pressure to support their parents in the future. I work in another city, so I cannot visit them frequently. I am deeply worried about five or 10 years down the line, when they grow older. There are many people facing similar concerns. Even for those living in the same city with their parents, it will be difficult for them to take care of their aging parents.

– Water pig, netizen

Mongol warrior vs Laozi

By Zhao Hongyi

A nude male sculpture on Peking University's campus recently prompted radically different reactions from the public.

The sculpture is of a muscular Mongolian standing in front of the Guanghua School of Management and facing a decade-old sculpture of Laozi, the founder of Taoism.

"It's a shame this great phi-

losopher has to face a naked strongman," a Peking University student posted online.

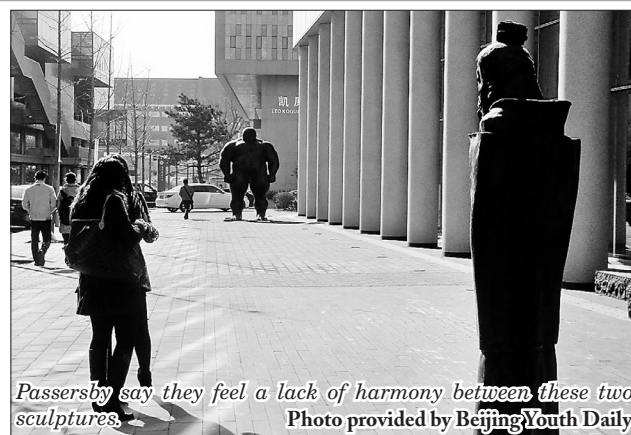
The school's staff could not give a reason for the statue's placement. "It's a decision made by the last president of our school," one of them said.

Sheng Hongbiao, a lecturer at the China Central Academy of Fine Arts, was the sculptor of the Mongol. He said the message of his work was "knowl-

edge is power."

The Laozi sculptor, Tian Shixin, is also a lecturer from the academy. He said his work demonstrates the intellectual power of Laozi, signaling that soft power in the form of culture is better than military might.

Some passersby say they feel a lack of harmony between these two sculptures. Others, however, like that as the two represent contrasting ideas.



Passersby say they feel a lack of harmony between these two sculptures. Photo provided by Beijing Youth Daily



The Pipi Lu and Lu Xixi series spans 70 books.

Photos provided by Pipi Lu and Lu Xixi Culture and Science Co.

Children's fiction guru dreams of international fame

Born under pressure

It was the Spring Festival of 1981 in Taiyuan, Shanxi Province.

Zheng Yuanjie, then a 27-year-old editor at a publishing house, had just received the unwanted holiday assignment of writing a short story for young readers.

After days of avoiding the job and the pressure of his deadline bearing down, Zheng typed out a single name: Pipi Lu.

Within three days, Pipi had gone on a 50,000-word adventure with his young sister, Lu Xixi. The story was a commercial hit, and publishers around the country were beating down Zheng door looking for more installments of the tale.

Four years later, he packed up his stories and set off to found a new Beijing magazine dedicated to publishing more of his fiction and fairytales. It was an unthinkable move at a time when the country's presses were under strict state control.

His one-author magazine grew rapidly and was soon circulating more than 7 million copies throughout the country.

In the mid-1990s, People's Art Publishing House brought the stories to even more children by buying the rights to a comic book edition.

Since then, the rights to most of the books have been sold to 21st Century Publishing House, which printed more than 20 million copies of the 70 volumes. The immense distribution has made the names "Pipi Lu" and "Lu Xixi" touchstones for two generations of Chinese youth.

Passing the torch

Many refer to Zheng as China's J.K. Rowling – except he was writing 20 years before the Harry Potter author ever thought up a muggle.

The day-to-day marketing of his creations is now a job left up to his son, Zheng Yaqi, who grew up with the characters. His son, now boss, sends him around the country to lecture and sign books. When he returns home, it's back to thinking up new adventures.

Of course, not all of those stories see publication. Zheng's

By Zhao Hongyi

2011 is the 30th anniversary of the debut of Pipi Lu and Lu Xixi, two popular characters from a long-running series of children's stories.

Now in his 50s, author Zheng Yuanjie is still promoting his old characters and sharing the stories of how both he and the brother

and sister duo have changed during the country's decades of sweeping economic reforms.

Zheng said he is confident that, with the government's support of cultural products and China's rising economic prominence, his characters can finally find recognition abroad.



Zheng Yuanjie (middle) celebrates the 30th anniversary of his characters.

CFP Photo

son is also his editor, and a lot of tales get sent back to dad to be transformed into something more marketable.

But the challenge facing the Zhengs isn't how to sell more stories, but how to spread Pipi Lu and Lu Xixi to the outside world.

Magazines, cartoon pictures and film producers from Japan and Taiwan have contacted them looking to develop the market, and 70 of Zheng's books have been adapted to online games. In 2008, Zheng shared the World Intellectual Property Organization's Creativity Award with Jackie Chan and several other Chinese celebrities.

Both hope the day will soon come when Pipi Lu becomes a household name like Harry Potter.

Promoting culture abroad

Zheng's success is one of China's many current attempts to cultivate soft power abroad.

In February, the Chinese government promoted Spring Festival and its recent cultural products in many cities around the world. Red envelopes, filial piety, and the thousand-hand Guanyin are slowly becoming familiar symbols of China around the world.

"We need to recover the real image of China and its people – that we are hard-working, friendly, peaceful and seeking harmony," said Li Weining, a professor at the Chinese University of Media and Communications.

But domestic experts say that relying on old cultural traditions and rituals is no substitute for packaged media. "The (culture) industry badly needs to start creating more creative, competitive and attractive works," said Zhang Guozuo, director and professor from the Research Center of Chinese Soft Power Studies.

The central government has since pushed the development of the country's culture and media industries to the top of its 2011 agenda.

Looking to tap into the government support, several major cities are now establishing their own culture development zones and offering financial assistance to companies engaged in creating, developing or packaging cul-

ture. The animation, cartoon and film industries appear to be the ones most likely to benefit.

In the latest Blue Book of Chinese Cultural released by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences last month, scholars urged the government to accelerate development on this road.

"Chinese cultural products occupy less than 4 percent of the world market – less than a tenth of what is occupied by the US," the report said. "The current state is ill-befitting of the rapid economic growth that has so elevated the status of our country."

The cultural industry is looking for leaders who can take it abroad. Only time will tell whether Pipi Lu is up to the task.

A new perspective on traditional Chinese therapies

By Chu Meng

Kristiina Koskentola, 44, a Finnish novel artist, believes acupuncture and cupping therapies are not uniquely Chinese medical practices, for their use was also common in early Europe and the Middle East.

"The earliest record of cupping describes it being used in 1550 BC. Egyptians used cupping. Archaeologists have found evidence in China of cupping dating back to 1000 BC," she said. "I believe they spread with the migration of people."

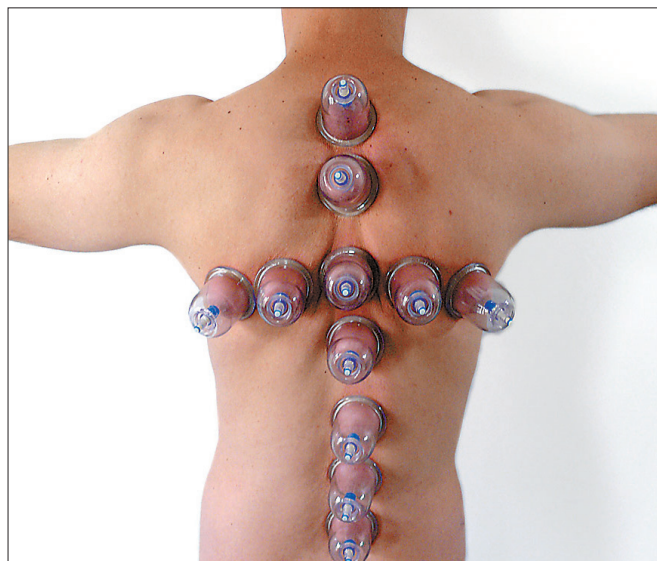
In Koskentola's understanding, since acupuncture and cupping therapies turned out to be universal, it should be linked in some way with another widely accepted universal thing: religion.

Three years ago she settled at Caochangdi Art Zone to probe the interconnection of spirituality and ancient medicine and the metaphorical possibilities of common healing concepts in ancient therapies and religion.

"I never really found the time to have a real holiday or tour since landing in Beijing. All experiences and impressions from here have had a huge impact on my practices. I did China-related projects one after another," Koskentola said.

On Saturday she will hold her fourth solo exhibition in China, a photo-based kinetics installation called Dialogue with the Flows that investigates the relationship between spirituality and the ancient medical practice of cupping.

The exhibition will be an installation of multiple copies of the same image of a man from behind, with his arms spread and cups arranged in a cross on his back. The images hang from the ceiling in rows. The narrow space between the images, just wide enough



A series of cups form a cross on the back of a human body.

for visitors to walk through, places the viewer in the intimate space of the work.

In Chinese medicine, heated cups are applied to certain acupuncture points on the human body as well as parts of the body that are afflicted by pain. Cupping is believed to remove blockages in the flow of qi, one's vital energy.

Qi is based on the idea that temperament and health are related to the balance or imbalance of the body's five elements – earth, metal, wood, fire and water – whose Western equivalent is the four humors: blood, phlegm, yellow bile and black bile.

And the cross is frequently a representation of the division of the world into four elements, or the union of the concepts of the divine and the earthly.

"Acupuncture and cupping manipulate the flow of qi inside human bodies. Religion controls and manipulates the flow of spirit. And qi is spirit," Koskentola said.

In another installation, a

Chinese and Japanese woman are connected by cups and a tube. The picture is symbolic of the conditions of systems in which competing influences or elements are balanced.

The repetitive images and photographs in Dialogue with the Flows have a stirring effect, as the viewer's movement creates interference patterns among the images. It makes people feel uncomfortable in some ways, such as when seeing the bruise and redness on the cupped areas, deep wrinkles and extrusions on the skin.

"Life is not comfortable; why should art be?" Koskentola said. This discomfort or repulsion is connected to her interest in the theories of the French-Bulgarian philosopher Julia Kristeva and her notion of abjection.

"That functions as one of the conceptual tools and an inspiration in my artistic research," she said. Dialogue with the Flows is open for multiple interpretations. It is open-ended.



Kristiina Koskentola has been living and working in Beijing for three years. Photos provided by Kristiina Koskentola

American all-around artist rocks R Lounge



Bertie Higgins

Photo provided by Bertie Higgins

By Li Zhixin

Bertie Higgins, an American singer-songwriter, has been rocking Renaissance Hotel's R Lounge every Wednesday through Sunday the past three weeks.

Higgins' song "Casablanca", a romantic ballad from his album of the same title, is extremely popular in Asia. In the US, his "Key Largo", featured on his 1982 album *Just Another Day in Paradise*, reached No. 8 on the Billboard Top 100.

But Higgins isn't your typical hotel lounge singer. He's here for firsthand research for a movie about – you guessed it – a hotel lounge singer.

His purpose in Beijing is to

find a Chinese co-producer and Chinese actors to take part in his movie, *The Marco Polo Bridge*, and also to scout proper filming locations.

The movie will be about a washed up American singer who comes to Beijing in 1937 to sing in lounge bars. He winds up falling for a young Chinese seductress just as the Japanese begin their invasion.

One of reasons that Higgins decided to make the movie is to show more Americans what Japanese militarists did to Chinese people and remind everyone that history's ugly sagas are all the proof we need that peace and love should be cherished.

"People know a lot about the Jewish experience during World War II, but many around the world have no idea how the Japanese hurt and slaughtered Chinese people at that time," Higgins said.

Higgins wants the story told through his movie. "It is a romance that blooms amid chaos," he said.

Higgins wrote the screenplay and will also star as the movie's hero.

He and his longtime composer-keyboardist, Mark Halisky, composed the film's 4-minute theme song, "Come to Me". It's currently one of the most popular songs at R Lounge.

New cultural venue open in Wudaokou

By Liang Meilan

Expats in Wudaokou don't need to commute downtown to participate in culture courses and activities. Coki, a newly established venue near the Wudaokou subway station, is determined to bring Chinese culture to foreigners in the city's college district.

The studio was founded in early February by a team of young Chinese people, most of whom work in the art and creative fields.

The studio, based out of initiator Angela Feng's house, is small, but it has a comfortable feel to it. The walls are decorated with a large paper fan and other Chinese artwork. Soft Chinese music streams in the background during classes.

Coki's best offering is its Chinese painting class, held in the main room.

The instructors are students majoring in Chinese painting at Central Academy of Fine Arts and Minzu University of China. They mainly teach free-hand style.

Three courses are available, specializing in landscapes, figures and flower and birds. A calligraphy class is also open for those eager to fully grasp the essence of Chinese painting, which is derived from the language's calligraphy.

"We have two reasons why we haven't invited famous artists to teach: lower price and more equal interaction [between student and teacher]," Feng said.

The price is 180 yuan for non-members for a two-hour class and 150 yuan for members. All materials are provided.

Since it is a hands-on course for expats, most of whom have little knowledge about Chinese painting, teachers are required to be patient. Coki instructors are good with



Angela Feng, 26, from Hangzhou, one of the initiators of Coki

Photo by Liang Meilan

that aspect of the course.

Instead of allowing students to draw in a hurry, teachers start the class by introducing basic strokes and interesting stories. English instruction is provided during the class.

"We aim to provide a systematic painting course, since we are aware that, instead of entertaining through painting, many foreigners want to learn the skill and really do want to create satisfactory works. So we try to make the class educational," Feng said.

Coki also offers a daily Chinese language workshop where participants discuss topics on contemporary Chinese culture in Chinese under the guidance of a teacher.

"It is comfortable practicing Chinese language in a laid-

back atmosphere," said Caroline Berg, a Chinese language student. "Because it is based in an apartment, coming to Coki feels more like visiting a friend than attending a formal school."

In addition to the daily language practice, Coki has an iCook event where members can learn to make simple Chinese dishes.

"It is easy for me to get tunnel vision and focus on the difficult task of learning a language," said Jonathan McCall, an American student learning Chinese. "My experiences at Coki Studio have given me a broader understanding and appreciation of Chinese culture. The iCook Project, for example, is a great opportunity to learn how to prepare traditional Chinese food."

Trips to local art districts and hiking tours are also part of

Coki's activities.

"We also accept event suggestions from members because instead of making money, the studio is for cultural exchange as well as social networking amongst expats and Chinese," Feng said.

A membership to Coki costs 50 yuan a month. Members enjoy 16 to 24 percent off events and up to three free iCook experiences every month.

Coki Studio

Where: Room 901, Building Jia 15, Huaqingjiayuan, Chengfu Lu, Haidian District (close to Exit B, Wudaokou subway station on Line 13)

When: Monday-Saturday, 9 am - 9 pm

Tel: 13910863374

Email: cokistudio@gmail.com

Event

International Women's Day variety show

To celebrate the centennial of International Women's Day, foreign playwrights, directors, actors, martial artists and singers living in Beijing are teaming up to stage a festival featuring six original short plays. Each depicts different situations from the lives of modern women. The event will also include dance and muay thai exhibitions. Music written for the event will be performed. All proceeds will go to Wokai, a micro-finance NGO helping rural Chinese women.

Where: Penghao Theater, 35 Beibingmasi Hutong, Andingmen Nei Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: March 10-13, 7:30-9:30 pm

Tel: 6400 6452

Cost: 80 yuan advance, 100 yuan at the door

Kid theater camp enrollment

Over the past four years, Beijing Playhouse has been organizing theater camps to train English-speaking children. This year's spring semester will feature workshops every Saturday from April 2 to June 11. Participants should be children between the ages of 6 and 14. Participants will perform *The Wizard of Oz* with acting, song and dance. Parents will be invited to participate in some of the classes.

Where: British School of Beijing, Shunyi campus, 15 Anhua Lu, Tianzhu Zhen, Shunyi District

When: March 12, starts at 2 pm

Tel: 8047 3588

Cost: 5,500 yuan

(By Liang Meilan)

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The magic touch for your wardrobe and style

By Chu Meng

More and more office workers are complaining about the increasing cost of stylish clothes, and as a result are finding fewer and fewer wearable pieces in their wardrobes.

It's these people who put personal wardrobe consultants in demand.

Guo Li, 37, has been working in this novel field in China for three years, providing services like tidying wardrobes, sorting and matching clothes and analyzing one's styles and designs.

"Even now, not many Chinese office workers know there is such a profession," Guo said. "My friends or families mistook me as a senior cleaning lady at first."

Guo has been happy about her growing client list and income. "While the number of high-profile businessmen and CEOs is growing in the city, the need for high-end, subdivided personal services is increasing," she said.

Wardrobe organizing is the fundamental part of Guo's job. She charges from 500 to 3,000 yuan for one-time service according to the size of the wardrobe, or at least 10,000 yuan for yearly service.

At the first session, she usually spends four hours with the new client, getting



A wardrobe and style consultant gives customers clothing tips.

Lu Beifeng/CFP Photo

to know her client's personality and needs, then sorting clothes according to the season, matching 10 to 20 outfits for the current season and taking photos of these pairings.

For example, she will work with clients to find a look that fits their style. Or she will talk to them so they discover what their style actually is.

"This is an enriching process that will help them find out what look is perfect so that they not only look their best but also feel their best," Guo said.

"I will also strongly suggest clients throw away or donate clothes that have not been worn during the past two years, and outdated ones, no matter how expensive they were," she said. By doing that to just a few pieces, the overall feel of the wardrobe will be significantly improved.

Another important duty of personal wardrobe consultants is picking out seasonal clothing according to color and style, what's popular in the fashion world and the cli-

ent's temperament and job position.

"For some high-end clients, I offer personal business events or accompany them on trips. This will help me deeply understand a client's job, which is essential to provide a better tailor-made style," Guo said.

Guo recommends ongoing wardrobe management two to four times a year. In addition to assessing people's needs, she will rotate and reposition items in a wardrobe as the seasons or lifestyles change.

Guoli Wardrobe Consultant Studio

Charge: 500 yuan per hour

Outfit evaluation and personal style tips, 1 hour

Color analysis, 1.5 hours

Wardrobe makeover (includes hangars and photographs), 4-6 hours

Quarterly wardrobe planning, 2-4 hours

Personal shopping, 3-6 hours

Planning and packing for travel, 2-4 hours

Reservation: 6731 1619 reserve three days in advance

Helping stray animals through Weibo



Photos of stray cats and dogs posted on Weibo

Photos provided by Sina.com

By Annie Wei

Zhang Xiaoli, a former DJ in Tianjin, and her colleagues often fed a stray dog in her company's yard. Two weeks ago, the stray dog got sick after giving birth to six puppies and could not take care of her pups.

Zhang thought it better to find suitable families for each puppy. So she posted an update on Sina Weibo and asked two friends to spread the word.

"At first we were stuck because I don't have many followers," said her friend, Ji Xinyu, 32, a local bank employee.

They contacted an organization called Icatidog, whose Weibo has 100,000 followers.

"Things went well," Ji said. "Within two days, all the puppies had families."

People who adopted these puppies were mostly young. "The most important thing is their families have

agreed to accept the puppy and promised not to abandon it," Ji said.

Four puppies were adopted by Tianjin families and two by Beijing families.

For people interested in helping or sponsoring stray animals, below are relevant Weibo accounts in Beijing that have the most number of followers. Be aware that people who run these sites are serious pet lovers who will not tolerate negligent owners.

@Homelessdogs

With more than 100,000 followers, this Weibo records information about stray dogs, lost dogs or dogs in danger nationwide. For example, when someone posts an update and photo of an injured stray dog, warm-hearted people nearby who see the post will offer help.

Homelessdogs has a Sina



blog and a Taobao store.

The Taobao store aims to get public to help Wang Liping and her husband, a couple who have been taking care of 180 animals in the suburbs.

For people who cannot adopt but want help, they can pay through Taobao to become a sponsor.

The blog has detailed articles and information about its stray animals, and articles about volunteer services and spaying and neutering cats and dogs.

@Laifuxiaoyuan

It has 51,000 followers. Apart from forwarding information of stray animals, it updates information on newly rescued animals. The site is operated by Li Jun, a woman who lives in Fengtai District and looks after 80 dogs and 20 cats.



Since the first-generation iPad price has dropped to 2,880 yuan, I am thinking about getting one for my 8-year-old boy as a birthday gift. I've heard that some suppliers in Zhongguancun have extra giveaways?

Check out a store called Apple Bar on the 10th floor of Dinghao, 3 Haidian Dajie, Haidian District. It is the biggest Apple product supplier in Zhongguancun. For iPads, it offers the low price of 2,840 yuan with a free installation of 100 frequently used apps. You can also have the product delivered. Call 400-6859-400 for more information.

My bosses from the US are visiting Beijing next month and I want them to have a great night out in town. I'm looking for a place that has jazz music, but without the drunken crowds.

The CJW at The Place has bands from the US. They play in the evenings until early morning.

Where: L-137, 9 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District
Tel: 6587 1222

(By Liang Meilan)

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyng@ynet.com

I'm preparing a home party to celebrate my husband's 40th birthday and will serve foods for our friends. All ingredients are prepared except for single or double cream. I've checked some Western stores like Wal-Mart, but they don't carry any. Can you help?

Jenny Lou's has a 400-milliliter double cream that is produced in China. But if you want more options, you should go to the Sanyuanli market at 2 Xinyuanli, Chaoyang District, near the Liangmaqiao subway station on line 10. Get off at exit A, go north and turn left at the first intersection; you'll find it 30 meters away.

I have three weeks left in China and I want to learn to cook typical Chinese dishes. I live in the Gulou area and would prefer to find a professional chef to learn from.

For professional Chinese cooking, Fangjia Kitchen would be your best bet. Located near Gulou at 13 Fangjia Hutong, Dongcheng District, it invites chefs from well-known local restaurants to teach cooking, and each class focuses on a regional classic cuisine and introduces Chinese food culture with cooking demonstrations, hands-on sessions and meals. Customized classes can be reserved in advance. Call them at 15910962965 for more information.

Out of the shadow

Documentary tackles HIV discrimination



By He Jianwei

Despite government campaigns and awareness efforts on World AIDS Day, HIV remains a serious taboo. The discrimination remains so intense that many potential carriers refuse blood tests and hide their suspicions from friends and family alike.

But three HIV carriers are breaking their silence to fight AIDS discrimination in Zhao Liang's newest documentary.

This film moved international viewers at the 61st Berlin International Film Festival last month. The coming weeks will show whether his target audience – the Chinese public – will be as sympathetic.

“It's unbelievable that European viewers liked my film,” Zhao said on February 26, three days after returning from the 61st Berlin International Film Festival.

His documentary, *Together: We Have a Beautiful Hope*, is a film-within-a-film that records the stories of three HIV carriers as they participate in the production of Gu Changwei's HIV-related feature film *Till Death Do Us Part*.

The documentary was screened four times in the Panorama division of the festival to an almost sold-out audience.

Before showing in Berlin, the film debuted at Broadway Cinematheque of Museum of Modern Art in Beijing. “I spend a lot of time talking about basic knowledge of the disease because I want to educate Chinese viewers. I was surprised European viewers had the patience to sit through it, since most have been very well educated about AIDS for more than 20 years,” Zhao said.

“When they gave me a standing ovation after the screening, I felt a little bit embarrassed,” he said.

Many European viewers stayed after to speak with Zhao and learn more about how people live with the disease in China.

When one asked whether most Chinese patients contracted the disease from blood transfusions, Zhao explained the virus is still primarily spread through sexual intercourse, and that the government provides free medicine for the infected patients.

Although Zhao previously made films about China's marginalized groups in the country, AIDS patients had never been his focus.

Gu, the renowned cinematographer of Chen Kaige's *Farewell My Concubine* in 1993 and the winner of the Silver Bear award for his director debut *Peacock* in 2005, decided to make bitter romance film about two young people with the disease starring Zhang Ziyi and Aaron Kwok.

To make it more convincing, Gu invited HIV carriers to advise on the film. The search for those people was something he wanted to direct a documentary about, but with his time already spread thin he passed the job on to Zhao.

At first, Zhao refused to do it, but eventually agreed due to his respect and admiration for the famous filmmaker. “I wanted to see how he works,” Zhao said.

According to official statistics in 2009, China had more than 740,000 people carrying the HIV virus. But Zhao could not locate even one.

“They live in an unseen world. They have their own ‘organizations’ in which they communicate with each other,” he said.

With the help of his friend from an NGO,

Zhao got permission to chat online with HIV carriers in a QQ group that is not open to the non-infected.

Zhao asked the members who would be willing to come in for a casting interview – only about 50 people agreed, but most of them required their voices and faces to be hidden.

“Through talking with them, I realized these people were not scared of their disease, but of how other people would treat them,” Zhao said. “HIV is a virus that you can carry like any other, but they were mortified of what would happen if their friends or family knew.”

Zhao met a young man in Shenzhen who learned he was HIV positive after a traffic accident. One of his legs was broken, but the hospital refused to operate on him to repair his leg. He has since attempted suicide.

“Almost 90 percent of people I interviewed attempted suicide within the first two days after hearing the news,” Zhao said.

The ones who survive faced a life in a mask. “Maybe they continue as ordinary workers by day, but at night they turn to the Internet. Even something as basic as taking their medicine at work becomes part of a secret identity they have to conceal from their peers,” he said.

In the end, six people were willing to cooperate with Gu on his film – only three showed their faces: a middle-aged man who has started living in a temple since becoming infected, a teacher and a student in a red ribbon primary school, a hospital school run by nurses.

The middle-aged man Lao Xia is pessimistic about his disease and views it as divine punishment. The teacher is an optimistic woman who devotes her life to helping other HIV carriers, but still lives a normal life in her village where she plays mahjong and chats with her neighbors. The 12-year-old Hu Zetao is a shy boy who is only vaguely aware how he is different from other children.

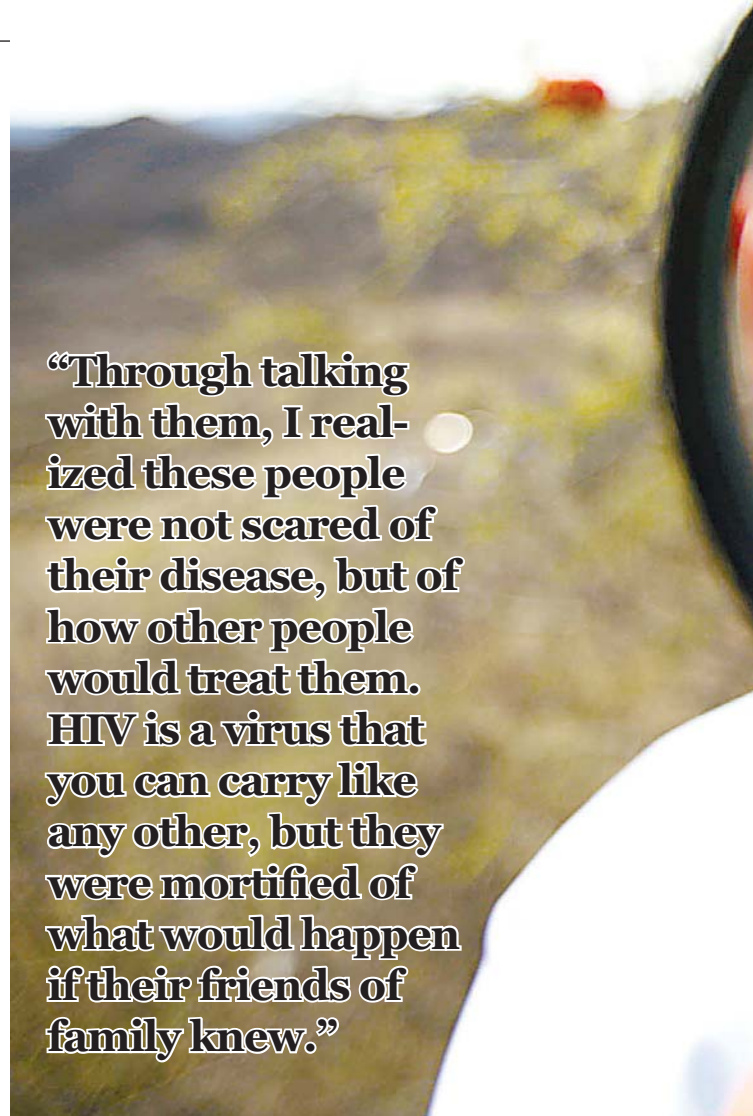
Zhao said that during the first week of filming, they were worried about contracting the illness despite knowing better. He said the patients went out of their way to make the film crew feel more comfortable by ordering separate dishes when eating out at a restaurant.

“Although all of us know it is not risky to have dinner together, their extra effort helped put everyone at ease,” he said.

One day, Zhao went to the boy's home and ate hotpot with his family. The boy did not pick his own food from the pot and instead asked his dad to help him.

“Lao Xia, the teacher and the boy come from different families, but they look like a family together. That's why I settled on calling my film *Together*,” Zhao said.

The film is showing every Saturday night in March at Broadway Cinematheque.



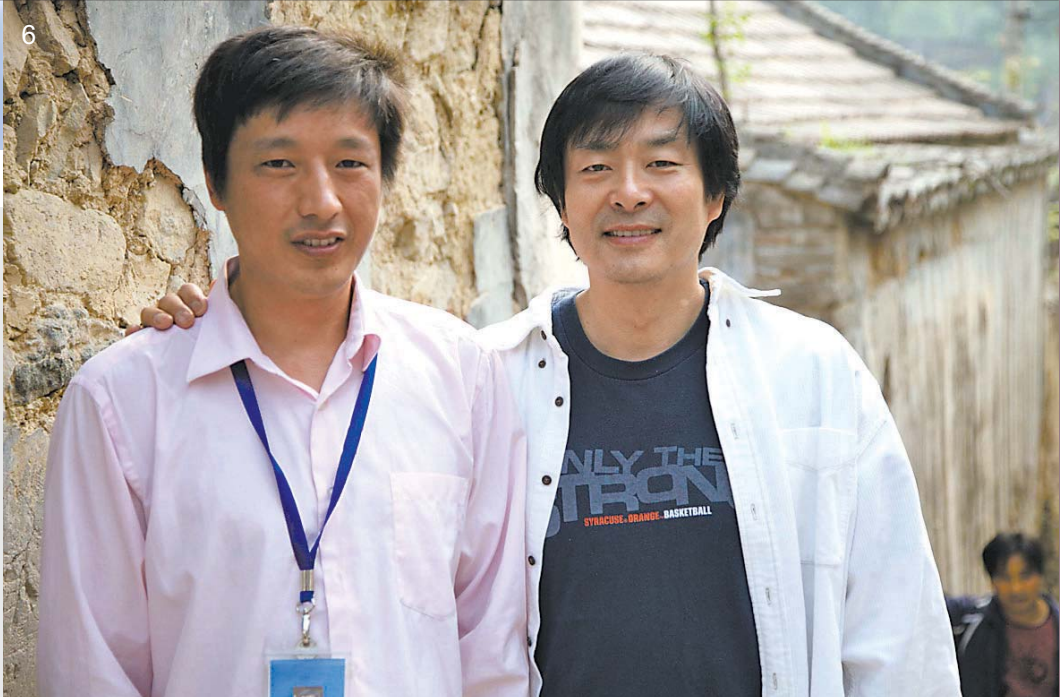
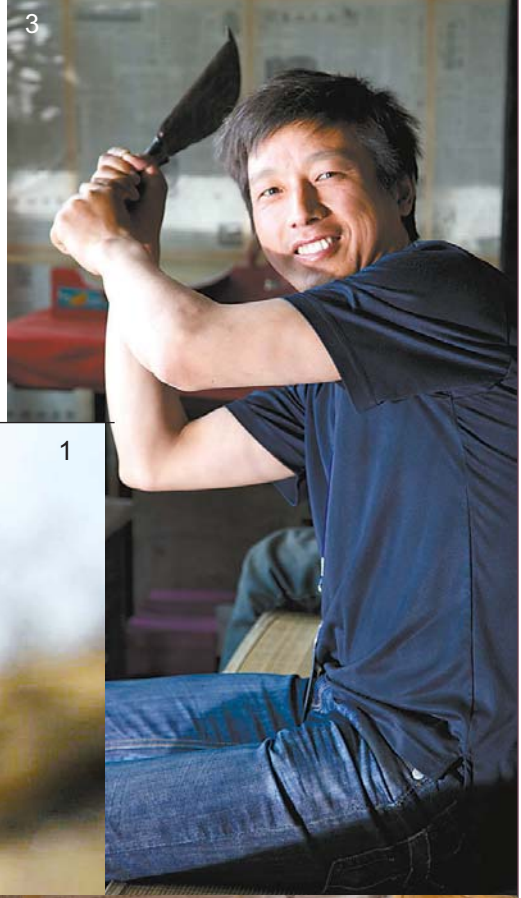
“Through talking with them, I realized these people were not scared of their disease, but of how other people would treat them. HIV is a virus that you can carry like any other, but they were mortified of what would happen if their friends or family knew.”



1,2,7. The 12-year-old Hu Zetao is a shy boy who is only vaguely aware of...
3,4. Middle-aged Lao Xia is pessimistic about his disease and views it as...
5,6. *Together: We Have a Beautiful Hope*, is a film-within-a-film that rec...
in the production of Gu Changwei's AIDS-related feature film *Till Death*

Together
Where:
tion of Mu
Dongchen,
When: M
Admissi
Tel: 843

VS



er: We Have a Beautiful Hope

Broadway Cinematheque, 2/F Building 4, north sec-
seum of Modern Art (MOMA), 1 Xiangheyuan Lu,
g District
March 12, 19 and 26, 5 pm
on: 40 yuan
8 8258 ext. 8008

*f his ailment.
divine punishment.
ords the stories of three HIV carriers as they participate
Do Us Part.*

Photos provided by Zhao Liang

Understanding loneliness through math



Photo provided by Paolo Giordano

By Chu Meng

Loneliness and solitude are hard to quantify, but Paolo Giordano, Italian novelist and particle physicist, takes a mathematical approach to evaluating life's intangible emotions.

His first work, *The Solitude of Prime Numbers*, published in Italy when he was 26 in 2008, won five literary awards, including Italy's premier "the Premio Strega," in the same year.

With the Italian language film adaptation and an award from the Venice International Film Festival in 2010, Giordano has become one of the most talked about novelists in the world.

To celebrate the recent release of a Chinese translation, Giordano was invited to Beijing by the Italian Embassy and The Bookworm this week.

Despite its title, *The Solitude of Prime Numbers* is a book far from the world of math and superficial metaphor. It is a love story about a traumatic childhood and trapped emotions – a perfect mix of intellectual intuition and sincere writing.

The story turns on its two protagonists – the boy Mattia and the girl Alice. Both traumatized as children, they grow up living parallel lives and never opening up to each other.

"Prime numbers, such as 3 and 5, are not divisible by anything other than themselves. They are easy to define, but difficult to solve. Among them, there is another particular sort of prime number – 'twin prime numbers,' such as 11 and 13, 17 and 19, 41 and 43. These couples of prime numbers are separated by an even number. No matter how close these pairs are, they never meet," Giordano said.

Alice bears the physical scars of a terrible skiing accident that nearly killed her. Mattia bears the emotional scars of having lost his disabled twin sister after leaving her alone in a park to attend his first and only birthday party.

At school, both are outsiders. Lonely, they befriend each other and form a special relationship – one close, but never romantic. Like a twin prime pair, they are always together but never touch.

When the gifted Mattia wins a mathematics posting that takes him thousands of miles away, their relationship appears to have run its course. But when Alice sees a woman who could be Mattia's sister, the two are reunited. Though in love, neither can express his or her emotions.

Zhang Yueran, a Chinese novelist born in the 1980s, was invited to talk with the author at the embassy. Like

Giordano, he left work as a computer scientist and attempts to understand numbers from a human angle.

"Many people say math is the only universal language and that numbers are the only currency accepted everywhere. Although notions of numbers, physics and all other sciences are often obscure and detached from our life, we often look for meaning in the structure they provide," he said, praising Giordano's book.

Another central theme of the novel is childhood.

Giordano said Niccolò Ammaniti, another Italian novelist who gained fame for his childhood-themed works, was one of his main influences.

"One of his first novels, *Steal You Away*, really shocked me when I was about 14. But I am not sure that child-

"Prime numbers, such as 3 and 5, are not divisible by anything other than themselves. They are easy to define, but difficult to solve ... These couples of prime numbers are separated by an even number. No matter how close these pairs are, they never meet."

hood is a prerogative of Italian authors," he said. "Any time I sit at my table and write, it's like I go back to that particular age of my life. I feel that the most important things that happened to me happened during my childhood and what occurred later was nothing but a continuous repetition of them."

Before writing *The Solitude of Prime Numbers*, he had only written short stories about children and childhood.

The story is set in Turin, Giordano's hometown, in Northern Italy. Giordano, born in 1982, tells the setting from the perspective of his generation to describe a part of the country rarely spoken of abroad.

The story could easily be set in any European or American city. His Turin is a small town – a bit isolated – where the protagonists attend

school by the river and the houses are not typically Italian.

"But Turin is an atypical Italian city with more similarities to European metropolises or even New York. The book needs that essential atmosphere: somewhere dark, foggy and cold," he said.

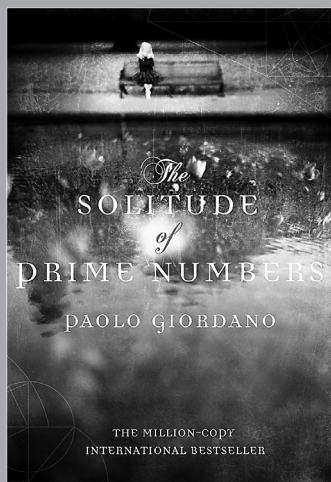
Heavily influenced by American pop culture via MTV, Giordano said he used to search out books by foreign writers – something he credits for his ability to write a work that has been so successful abroad.

He described his generation of writers as one concerned with opposites. Its artists and novelists are split between specific and general approaches – stories are both incredibly realistic and tied intimately to a real location, or they attempt to use a universal background setting with slightly less precise detail.

Whether Giordano will continue writing or return to the sciences remains unknown. But if he does pen a second book, it will almost certainly be one to pick up.



224pp, Shanghai Translation Publishing House, 26 yuan



288 pp, Pamela Dorman Books, \$25.95

Build your sound studio with virtual gear

By Wang Yu

Recording music used to be an arcane process best left up to the studios. But the age of digital processing made it possible for music fans that were willing to learn the software to develop their brief melodies into full songs.

But last year, Apple's iPad smashed down what little barrier to entry was left.

Gone are the days of tuning virtual instruments. With a few taps and swipes, the iPad can transform into a guitar, a bass guitar or a synthesizer using some innovative new music Apps.

Last Christmas, the virtual band Gorillaz released *The Fall*, its newest album up for digital distribution. *The Fall* was an achievement not only for its music, but because Damon Albarn, lead singer and songwriter of Blur, recorded it entirely on his iPad.

Albarn used popular virtual instruments such as SoundyThingie, AmpliTube, iOrgel HD and iElectribe. Having fallen in love with the iPad soon after its release, he was determined to find a professional application for the device.

But for all the fanfare surrounding their new album, Albarn was actually late to the scene.

Long before *The Fall*, New York band Atomic Tom was playing tunes on the iPhone's virtual guitar and recording their live performances with three iPhones. The popular video has been viewed million of times on YouTube.

Groups that use iPhone and iPads as instruments have been dubbed iBands. The first in Beijing was Da Maimai, which composed "Play Go" for its online video on an iPad. Liang Sicheng, keyboardist, said the idea came from the Korean "iPhone girl" who covered Beyoncé's "Irreplaceable" and Lady Gaga's "Poker Face" on her iPhone. While Gorillaz may be famous for

their creative use of electric instruments, they still use real instruments at their gigs.

"It is a fresh idea to play bass on the screen, but it just doesn't feel good. A bass guitar has a tactile response when you play it that is missing on the touchscreen. The sound is also too cold compared to what you get from tube amps and analog pedals. But I guess that suits some forms of music," says Wang Shan, bassist of the local rock band Elenore.

The band used M3000 HD, an App that stimulates Korg's classic synthesizer to record the strings on its new self-titled track.



Gorillaz is the first big name band to record an album on the iPad.

Korg iElectribe

Korg has created many classic synthesizers in music history. The most popular is its Electribe series. It's no surprise that iElectribe has been so popular.

The user interface is identical to the old Electribe with 64 pre-set patterns ranging in genre from House to Hardcore, giving users a template for rapid tune development. For those looking to create their own tones, iElectribe offers 64 user banks that have nothing more than a single synth trigger.

There are eight basic sounds that a user can work with, including synth and drums kits. Users can alter each sample or tone's pitch, volume and wave by turning the virtual knobs. The hardware version of the Electribe is tube driven, and the iElectribe is no different. The glowing tube on the top of the interface varies in intensity when the user adjusts the amp's output. The \$12 App sounds almost identical to the actual hardware, which usually costs \$400.

Price: \$12



AmpliTube iRig

Guitarists need effect pedals, but few have enough room to record guitar tracks using a mic and an amplifier. Virtual guitar effect plug-ins like AmpliTube fill the gap by letting you record with your guitar plugged directly into the computer.

But carrying a laptop to a gig is inconvenient: enter the iRig. Like a real pedal chain, a user plugs his guitar into the gadget and the App allows the user to mix amps and pedals to simulate a variety of classic hardware. There are also two mic positions available that users can tweak to adjust the tone. Accessories like a tuner and metronome come built-in.

As for sound quality, it may not be the same as a real \$1,000 setup, but it should be enough for practicing or recording demos at home. Just don't try stepping on the screen.

Price: \$19.99



Korg iMS-20

The original hardware version of the iMS-20 is the MS-20, one of Korg's most popular classic synthesizers that it retired in the 1980s. The MS-20 has been used by bands such as Radiohead and Coldplay to augment their rock tones with electro.

The app has a pair of oscillators, three- and five-stage envelope generators, LFO, VCA and classic squelchy MS-20 filters. Noise and ring mod are included, and the LFO can be syn-



Smule Magic Piano

The Smule Magic Piano provides three piano keyboards – spiral, circular and the traditional horizontal keyboard. The multi-touch screen allows users to touch several keys at one time to play chords.

But what makes this App popular is its songbook feature to train budding pianists. There are 20 classic songs in its songbook, and once activated, the screen will turn dark. As the song plays, dots appear on the display. The user needs to tap the location of the dots to play the notes like in Guitar Hero.

More experienced pianists can use the App to show off on the go. Chinese pianist Lang Lang once played Rimsky-Korsakov's "Flight of the Bumble Bee" on this App at a concert.

Price: \$0.99



chronized to the sequencer. The App, like the original hardware, offers virtual patch cables to complete the patch bay.

The iMS-20 also provides a drum machine section with six-part rhythm sequencing. Each sound was sampled from an actual MS-20. Users can control notes, volume and pan via the sequencer knobs. All the sequencer patterns can be arranged into songs and dumped through iTunes.

Price: \$19.99

Shops run by rockers

By Wang Yu

Most local rock musicians don't live on their music – they have regular jobs or own their own shops.

Rockers are always at the forefront of underground fashion, so it's no wonder that many of them own boutiques. With their stores, they can also promote their music.

Beijing Today picked out some stores run by local rockers. Regardless of the quality of music they play, their products are worth checking out.



Cup, starting from 20 yuan

Jiong Box



Notebook, starting from 15 yuan

Photos provided by Jiong

The local band Convenience Store also celebrated its 10th birthday last weekend by performing at Yugongyishan. Besides being a rock star, Guo Shuo, lead singer of the band, has another identity as the founder of Jiong Box, one of the city's earliest lattice shops.

Most rockers have designer friends. Guo noticed that indie designers usually have to take risks opening their own stores, and the income from online sales is low. Inspired by lattice shops in Japan, the singer opened Jiong Box three years ago for locals to market their original designs.

The first shop was open at SOHO Shangdu and soon branched out to Chengdu and Chongqing. The shop provides an empty box to display the designers' products in exchange for a rent fee. It is the designers who price their products, ranging from handmade book covers to cartoon dolls.

The Beijing branch of Jiong Box is currently closed, but anyone interested can purchase their products online.

Website: jiongbox.com

London-style vintage



Vintage dress, 400-500 yuan Photo provided by MegaMega Vintage

This shop is well decorated and has a "London feel" to it. Customers will easily spot its red-lit sign on the front. The store walls are painted blue and covered with posters of art and pictures of The Clash, an English rock band. Besides vintage clothing, Mega Mega also sells gramophone players and records.

"I designed the place myself after looking at pictures of foreign vintage stores on the Internet," said Liu Ke, the shop owner who plays in the local band The Linga. "I hope customers come in not only to buy clothes, but also to experience a different atmosphere and to get into a different culture." The shop's fitting room even looks a London public telephone booth.

Most of Mega Mega's vintage clothing is imported from Korea, Japan and Thailand. "I have some friends abroad who help look for rare stuff. But most of the goods in the shop are selected from tons of imported used clothes. Then they are disinfected, ironed and classified. That's tough work to do," Liu said.

Vintage leather jackets, coats, boots and sweaters are available at affordable prices. The store has also cooperated with many fashion magazines to provide costumes for models.

MegaMega Vintage

Where: 241 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

Open: 11 am – 8 pm

Tel: 8404 5637

Second Hand Rose

As one of the most popular bands in China, Second Hand Rose is famous for its folk-rock songs of northeast China. The band's online store is in the same style, inspired by both modern and traditional Chinese designs.



Pins, 3 yuan each

Many of its current products are to celebrate the band's 10-year anniversary, including T-shirts, wallets, canvas bags, badges, post-cards and woodblocks. Designer Qiao Xiaodao is also a folk musician, writer and founder of the club Tiny Salt Coffee. Artist Zheng Wei also contributed to the shop by making the wood-block print "10 years as one day" (800 yuan) in five colors.

The band's records can be found here.

Website: ershoumeigui.taobao.com

Photos provided by Ershoumeigui

Cotton bag, 100 yuan



Rock apparels

This is another shop run by rockers. Liu Hao, the bassist of Joyside, and his band members opened it as a gathering place for friends and as a venue for their once-a-month parties. Though Joyside disbanded a while ago, you can still find some members in the shop. For those who want to explore the rock scene of the Gulou area, the shop is also a good start.

Leather jackets and vintage jeans are Underground Kidz' specialties. It also offers vintage foreign military coats.

Underground Kidz

Where: 69-2 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

Open: 2:30-10 pm

Tel: 8401 2346



Underground Kidz' front door



Inside Underground Kidz Photos provided by Underground Kids

Dip into the wild side

By Annie Wei

The warm humidity in the south during the spring allows the growth of seasonal wild plants that are immensely healthy to consume.

Beijing Today scouted Sanliyu market and discovered many of the plants aren't available. But luckily, we found a few restaurants whose suppliers have come through for them.



Inside Nanjing Dapaidang

Photos by Liu Bo

Nanjing Hotel – authentic Nanjing food

Many people who have lived in Nanjing for a few years favor the Chinese restaurant at Nanjing Hotel, which delivers nostalgic tastes.

The restaurant's fresh vegetables currently include fried shuiqincai (38 yuan), water cress. Its reed wormwood is fresher than at other places, and has a nice and light fragrance, a little bit crispy outside yet tender inside.

Fried smelly tofu and xiancai (36 yuan) is recommended. Xiancai is Chinese spinach, and secretes red juices after it's cooked. Xiancai will be soon available in local food markets. Just simply fry it with garlic and add a bit of salt.

The restaurant's other good dishes include meijijiang hexia (seasonal price), river shrimp fried and sauced with Maggi seasoning, which is available at every supermarket.

Cigu hongshaorou (48 yuan) is fried pork in soy sauce. Cigu – arrowhead – is best in the spring, but also available year-round. Preparing cigu is easy: just cook it like potatoes. When cooked with meat, cigu is soft and potato-like; never cook it with vegetables, otherwise it comes out bitter.

Other seasonal dishes include juecai yutuan (48 yuan) – stewed fish ball with fiddlehead ferns – tianluo juecai (50 yuan), fried field snails and leeks.

The most recommended dish is globefish (298 yuan per tail), which is fat and tender in the spring. Few restaurants in Beijing serve it. However, as globefish is poisonous, it takes 40 minutes to properly prepare.

We suggest making a reservation for this restaurant.

Nanjing Dafandian

Where: 2nd and 3rd floor, Nanjing Dafandian, 5 Wangfujing Xi Jie, Dongcheng District
Open: 11 am – 2 pm, 5-9 pm
Tel: 6526 2188
Cost: Average 200 yuan per person



Xiancai, Chinese spinach



Cigu, arrowhead



Xiangchun, Chinese toon

Photos provided by Google

Nanjing Dapaidang – 300 dishes

A well-known restaurant in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, this place opened its first Beijing branch in the winter.

Dapaidang means food stalls, so it's not surprising that the restaurant has a wide range of Nanjing snacks in addition to Huaiyang cuisine and popular national dishes. Its antique décor is also impressive: a two-floor wood-carved interior with many big lanterns reminiscent of ancient Nanjing alleys.

In Nanjing, the most popular spring vegetables are wolfberry shoots, Chinese irises, and chrysanthemums. These are called Nanjing's three treasures. Just slightly fried (22 yuan), each is good at relieving stomach heat.

In old times, every family in Nanjing had a big *xiangchun* – Chinese toon tree – in the courtyard. Fried *xiangchun* and egg (38 yuan) is very popular.

Fried *luhao* (reed wormwood) and dried tofu (25 yuan) is recommended. *Luhao* is shipped from Nanjing and looks and tastes much fresher than what you get from the local market.

Other classic Nanjing dishes include *yanshuiya* (46 yuan): a duck marinated and fried with salt, air-dried and then steamed. It's a thousand-year-old traditional dish. Compared to Beijing duck, *yanshuiya* uses slimmer ducks, so the dish is less greasy.



Fried luhao and dried tofu, 25 yuan

Fengmi nuomi'ou (22 yuan), steamed lotus root stuffed with glutinous rice in honey sauce, tastes sweet, cool and light.

For starch, try *shengjianbao* (20 yuan), pan-fried stuffed buns, with sesame seeds at the bottom.

Gufa tanyumiao (6 yuan per person) is special-made taro drenched in sweet osmanthus-flavored syrup, soft and sweet. We recommend it for dessert.

The restaurant's second floor has private rooms that can be reserved.

Every night at 8:30 pm, there is performance of Suzhou *tanping*; a folk ballad sings in the Suzhou dialect.

Nanjing Dapaidang

Where: 2nd floor, Zhongguancun Shopping Mall, 5 Haidian Dajie, Haidian District

Open: 11 am – 2 pm, 5-9:30 pm on weekdays; 11 am – 10 pm on weekends
Tel: 5986 3111 / 5986 3006

Cost: Average 40 yuan per person

Other restaurants good at fresh vegetables

Loving mom's vegan cuisine

A new vegan restaurant just joined the 1949 neighborhood near Changhongqiao, offering an all-vegan buffet at a promotional price of 68 yuan per person.

The restaurant aims to promote veganism, which they say is healthier and more environmentally friendly. The restaurant claims to use no preservatives or MSG, and organic seasonal ingredients. It has 68 dishes, prepared in local and Western styles, including vegetable hotpot, non-diary pastries, nuts and juices.

Where: Inside the courtyard of 4 Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – 9 pm

Tel: 6500 1747

Cost: 88 yuan per person, but 68 yuan during promotion

Penghuwan Canting

This Taiwan flavor restaurant has delicious *jiucengtian*, Taiwan basil, including fried *jiucengtai* and eggs (30 yuan). Compared to imported basils, *jiucengtian* has smaller



Juecai, fern



Yuxingcao, houttuynia



Shuiqincai, watercress
CFP Photos

leaves and tastes a bit spicy and bitter.

Where: Rongke Zixun Zhongxin, 76 Baofusi, Zhongguancun, Nansan Jie, Haidian District

Open: 10:30 am – 9 pm

Tel: 6250 9898

Cost: Average 45 yuan per person

Jinmafang Canting

It offers many Yunnan vegetables like mint and houttuynia.

Where: 1 Xiaohuangzhuang Bei Jie, Chaoyang District

Open: 10:30 am – 9 pm

Tel: 8428 2279

Cost: Average 50 yuan per person

Xuxiangzhai

Its vegetarian buffet features tofu-made meats, vegetables, sushi, soup, porridge, fresh fruits and desserts, and is popular among local vegetarians for its good ingredients. A la carte is also available.

Where: 26-1 Guozijian Dajie, Dongcheng District

Open: 10 am – 9 pm

Tel: 6404 6566

Cost: Average 60 yuan per person

Exploring design boundaries

By *Chu Meng*

What does it take for current Chinese designs to establish an identity? How does one set and maintain high standards when reality pressures artists to create commercial items?

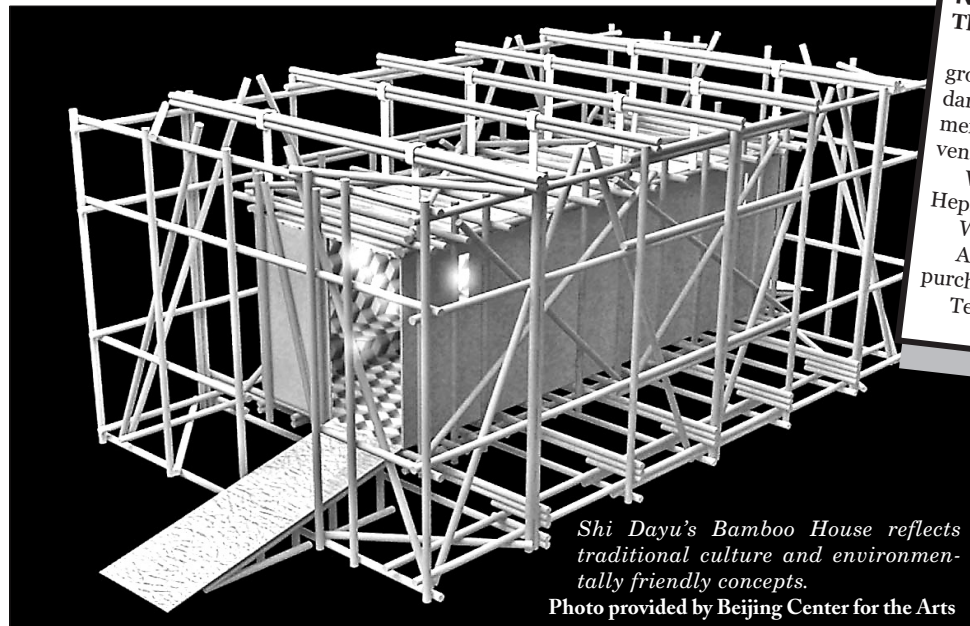
The exhibition and forum "Omni-dimensional Design in China" and "Arts China Design Forum II" seeks to answer these questions.

"The Omni-dimensional Design exhibition is an art show that transcends the boundaries of the design field and represents a collaborative effort to break through the bottleneck of the industry," said curator Jiang Yipeng.

Held by the Beijing Center for the Arts (BCA), the exhibition will gather top contemporary designers, artists and researchers, including Shao Fan, Jeff Shi and Yung Ho Chang, to promote multi-disciplinary, multinational exchanges and stimulate profound social innovations.

Jiang said the last 30 years of drastic changes in society, economy, culture and business brought Chinese design to a pivotal point in its development. "It has now become a necessity to investigate deeper," he said, calling for a wider and more serious attention to the field.

Remodeling urban looks and



Shi Dayu's Bamboo House reflects traditional culture and environmentally friendly concepts.
Photo provided by Beijing Center for the Arts

lifestyles has taken precedence. In the beginning, designers showcased bursts of passion; there were crazy and absurd performances. But gradually, design mellowed. China has slowly transitioned from a country known for "making" things to "creating."

"Design is, after all, art imitating life, an observation and interpretation of human beings," said Yung Ho Chang, the forum's keynote speaker. "The context of contemporary design in China corresponds

well with the living reality."

Chang is one of the world's most closely watched Chinese architects. Born in Beijing in 1956, he spent 15 years studying and teaching in the US before returning to open Atelier "Unusual Architecture" in 1993, Beijing's first private architectural firm.

He said that the ever-intensifying process of urbanization and globalization, the information explosion, the infinite extension of the virtual world, the dizzying progress of fashion

and the birth of high technology have given Chinese designers an enormous amount of possibility for creating original works.

Omni-dimensional Design in China / Arts China Design Forum II

Where: Beijing Center for the Arts, 23 Qianmen Dong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: March 18 - April 15, 10 am - 8 pm, Mondays on appointment only

Admission: free
Tel: 65598008

5 Friday, March 11

Nightlife
Bottlesmoker
This Indonesian electropop duo, the winner of Best Electro

at the 2010 Asia Voice Independent Music Awards (AVIMA), starts its Asian tour this month. It is the band's first time in China.

Where: Gulou 121 Club, 121 Jiu Gulou Dajie, Xicheng District

When: 9 pm
Admission: 40 yuan advance purchase, 100 yuan at the door, 70 yuan for students

Tel: 8404 3430

Exhibition



Brush Ink Light Shadow
Qu Leilei, president of the British Chinese Painter-Calligrapher Association, brings ink

and oil paintings.

Where: National Art Museum of China, 1 Wusi Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: Until March 15, 9 am - 5 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 8403 3500

Movie



Perfume: The Story of a Murderer (2006)

Based on Patrick Suskind's novel *Perfume*, this German thriller is about an orphan's desire to preserve women's scent by killing them.

Where: China Film Archive, 3 Wenhuiyuan Lu, Xiaoxituan, Haidian District

When: 7 pm
Admission: 20 yuan
Tel: 8229 6153

6 Saturday, March 12

Exhibition
2007/2008/2009/2010
Xia Xing selects 60 images that originally appeared in the local newspaper *The Beijing News* and creates a visual diary of events by transposing the pictures onto canvas. The exhibition shows his works from 2007 to 2010.

Where: Galerie Urs Meile Beijing, 104 Caochangdi Village, Chaoyang District

When: Until April 10, daily except Monday, 10 am - 6 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 6433 3393

Movie

Bob le Flambeur (Bob the Gambler) (1956)

This French gangster film is about an old gambler and gangster who tries to rob a bank when he is just about broke.

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 7 pm
Admission: 15 yuan, 10 yuan for students

Tel: 8459 9269

Nightlife

We Save Strawberries and Huang Jie

We Save Strawberries is a Taiwanese electro rock band releasing its first single eight years after its founding. Huang Jie is a Taiwanese indie folk singer and songwriter, whose latest album discusses how the younger generation fits into society.

Where: Mao Livehouse, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 8 pm
Admission: 80 yuan advance purchase, 120 yuan at the door

Tel: 6402 5080

Sunday, March 13

Exhibition
City DNA II - Lu Xinjian Solo Exhibition

This exhibition features a dozen new paintings from the artist's signature city map series, inspired by Google Earth.

Where: F2 Gallery, 319 Caochangdi Village, Chaoyang District

When: Until April 18, daily except Monday, 10 am - 6 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 6432 8831

Movie
Up (2009)

This Disney Pixar film is about a retired balloon salesman who sets off to find the world of his childhood dreams. In the midst of his adventure, he realizes that life's biggest adventures are not the ones you set out for.

Where: Lady Book Saloon, 69 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District
When: 6:30 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 6270 1928

Nightlife
Mr. Miss

This indie jazz duo won Best Jazz Band as voted by students at Peking University last year.

Where: Jianghu Bar, 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiadaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 8:30 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6401 5269

Upcoming

Nightlife

The Whitest Boy Alive

This German-Norwegian musical group based in Berlin is an electronic dance music project comprising members of the band Kings of Convenience.

Where: Star Live, 3/F Tango, 79 Heping Xi Jie, Dongcheng District

When: March 15, 9 pm
Admission: 130 yuan advance purchase, 180 yuan at the door
Tel: 6402 5080

Stage in April

Concert

Westminster Boys' Choir

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 18 Zhaodengyu Lu, Xicheng District

When: April 5, 7:30 pm
Admission: 30-580 yuan
Tel: 6417 7845

Hilary Hahn and The English Chamber Orchestra

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: April 8, 7:30 pm
Admission: 180-800 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Traditional Irish Music by the Blackwater Band

Where: National Library Concert Hall, 33 Zhongguancun Nan Dajie, Haidian District

When: April 9, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-380 yuan
Tel: 8854 5531

Li Yundi and China

National Center for the Performing Arts Orchestra

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: April 23, 7:30 pm
Admission: 200-1,200 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Dance

Songs of the Wanderers by Cloud Gate Theater

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: April 1-2, 7:30 pm
Admission: 100-580 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Drama

Burnt by the Sun

Where: Capital Theater, 22 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: April 4-17, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-580 yuan, 40 yuan for students
Tel: 6524 6789

Opera

Bizet's Opera: Carmen

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: April 9-16, 7:30 pm
Admission: 160-880 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

(By He Jianwei)



Relieve fever with traditional medicine

By Li Zhixin

As the seasons change, many children run a higher risk of catching a cold.

Many parents worry when they see their children burning up with a high fever and rush to buy common drugs like nimesulide, ibuprofen, acetaminophen and aspirin.

But when it comes to treating fever, many traditional medicines are just as good as synthetics — and often they have fewer side effects.



CFP Photo

Nimesulide's name soiled

Kangzhi Pharmaceutical Company may find itself on the receiving end of a class-action lawsuit because its nimesulide is reported to have caused adverse reactions in thousands of children.

After having its license to produce medicine suspended on Valentine's Day, Kangzhi's stock value plummeted 20 percent. Some drugstores took nimesulide off their shelves.

The crisis has its roots in an international forum on pediatric drug safety held in November. During the forum, experts from the US, UK and China issued a stern reminder that nimesulide can cause irreversible damage to the central nervous systems and livers of children — in the worst case, it could cause death.

Chen Huizhong, a professor at Capital Institute of Pediatrics, said at the forum that there were more than 4,700 cases of adverse reaction caused by nimesulide between January 2004 and April 2010. Three were fatal.

Repeatedly bad record

The non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug family is huge. Among these, drugs used to relieve high fever and pain and diminish inflammation can mainly fall into three categories: ibuprofen, acetaminophen and nimesulide.

The three antipyretics all have specific dosages listed for children and are used often by doctors and parents to treat fever.

Nimesulide first became available in Italy in 1985. The drug is now sold in more than 50 countries. Although the specific usage instructions vary from country to country, it is primarily used to treat acute fevers in children who have an upper respiratory infection.

"Compared with ibuprofen and acetaminophen, nimesulide tends to be more effective and dependable for relieving fever and aches. It was regarded as the most promising non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug," said Sun Zhongshi, a pharmacist at SFDA.

Nimesulide became available in China in 1996. According to SFDA's statistics, there are more than 55 medicines that contain nimesulide produced and sold domestically. The Chinese Pharmaceutical Association's survey shows that the market share and sales amount of nimesulide ranks third in China, and its sales volume has increased each year by more than 14 percent.

However, in the 26 years since it was first synthesized, nimesulide has been banned by many countries.

In 2002, Finland, Spain and Turkey banned the sale of the medicine fearing its potential to cause liver damage. After evaluation by the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products, it went back on sale in Finland and Spain in 2004.

To date, there have been only 20 reports of liver damage related to nimesulide worldwide.

The World Health Organization (WHO) suggests using ibuprofen, acetaminophen and aspirin instead when treating children.

Traditional alternatives

Traditional medicine has long had a good reputation for treating fever.

In modern medicine, temperatures are divided into three tiers: high fevers, where the temperature is equal to or greater than 39 C, low fevers where the temperature fluctuates between 37.5 and 38 C, and hypothermia, where the temperature falls below 36 C.

In traditional medicine, high fevers are classified as an exogenous attack. Low fevers are seen as the result of internal injury.

High fevers are believed to result from a struggle between the body's qi and a pathogenic invading qi. Much less frequently, high temperatures originate as a sign of organ disease.

Four pathogens are acknowledged as being at the root of external fevers:

1. Following its penetration of the body through the mouth, the nose or sometimes the skin, wind-heat invades the lung, damaging its function. This impedes the circulation of defensive qi which results in a fever accompanied by shivers.
2. If it reaches the qi, it can cause a fever without shivers.
3. If summer heat directly attacks the pericardium or if heat rises to the pericardium from the qi and yin stages, the high fever will be accompanied by delirium.
4. If the invading qi begins attacking internal

organs, the fever will be accompanied by symptoms related to the general area that is being damaged.

If a child's fever is caused by wind-heat invading lung, herbal medicines like mulberry leaf, chrysanthemum, mint, apricot seed, platycodon root, weeping forsythia, common reed root, licorice root, ephedra and gypsum can be useful.

They should be boiled and the resulting decoction drunk cold. The medicines help to clear wind, cool the throat and to reduce coughing and cottonmouth.

If the fever is caused by pathogenic heat penetrating the interior organs, boil gypsum, anemarrhena root, Asian rice and licorice root to build heat in the stomach and large intestine.

If the fever is caused by pathogenic heat obstructing the lung, use ephedra, apricot seed, gypsum and licorice root to clear the lung and ease shortness of breath. If the symptoms are significant, add anemarrhena root to the mixture.

If the pathogen is in the yin stage, use rehmannia root, scrophularia root, ophiopogon root, forsythia fruit, honeysuckles, salvia root, golden thread and lophatherum leaf to clear heat and refresh the ying.

If heat invades the pericardium, use ox bezoars, moschus, golden thread, gardenia fruit, realgar, curcuma root, borneol and margarita to clear the heart and cool blood.

Acupuncture can also be used to relieve fever.

Tips

1. Rest as much as possible.
2. Drink as much water as you can in order to replace fluids. It can also help bring down the body temperature.
3. Avoid sudden changes in atmospheric temperatures.
4. Avoid eating solid foods until the fever is gone. You can drink juice instead.
5. Take a cool bath for no more than 5 minutes.
6. If the fever does not exceed 39 C, let it run its course. It helps the body fight infection and eliminate toxins.
7. When you have a fever, do not take any supplements containing iron or zinc. Taking iron causes great tension in a body that is fighting infection, and zinc is not absorbed during a fever.
8. When a child has a fever, try to reduce his temperature using a cold bath before administering aspirin.

The blossoming of wintersweet

By Zhang Dongya

Wintersweet, as its name implies, is a winter flower, but in Beijing it blossoms unusually late: between February and March. In other words, now is the perfect time to catch these yellow flowers.

Wintersweet, while common in other parts of China, can be seen only in a few parks, gardens and temples in Beijing. Most wintersweets began blooming last week and will continue doing so until next week. Here are some places to catch a glimpse.



Ancient wintersweet at Wofu Temple

The Temple of Reclining Buddha is along the main north-south path in Beijing's Botanical Garden. It is one of the oldest temples in Beijing, built during the Tang Dynasty (618-907), and features a reclining Sakymamuni statue built during Yuan Dynasty (1206-1368).

There are more than 60 wintersweet shrubs scattered around the temple, especially around Shanmen, the temple's main gate.

On the east side of Tianwang Hall, or the Heavenly King Hall, there is a cluster of wintersweet, supposedly planted during Zhenguan Period (627-649) in Tang. The ancient plant won the title of "Laurel of Beijing Wintersweet."

The flower has not blossomed yet. Only buds are in the trees, but they are expected to bloom late this month.

"They're late this year, but the yellow is worth the wait," an employee at the temple said.

Beijing Botanical Garden

Where: Wofosi Lu, Haidian District

Open: 7 am - 5 pm

Tel: 6259 1561

Admission: 5 yuan

Getting there: Take Bus 318, 360, 505, 630, 698 or 714 to Beijing Zhiwuyuan. Or drive along Fifth Ring Road and take Xiangshan exit, and drive another 10 minutes in Xiangshan's direction.

Temple of the Reclining Buddha:

Open: 8:30 am - 4 pm

Admission: 5 yuan

Full blossom in Summer Palace

Entering Summer Palace from Beigongmen, you will see a complex of folk halls called Lenongxuan beside Xiequ Garden. Lenongxuan, literally "happy peasant halls," once was the place of refuge for the Empress Dowager Cixi. The ancient halls have been well maintained, with fine wood-carvings.

In front of the halls are dozens of wintersweet, which blossomed last Sunday. Many photography enthusiasts have been buzzing around here.

One photographer said only one or two bloomed when he arrived in the early morning, but they gradually blossomed between 10 am to noon. People were delighted to see the process.

"Last year, with the short spring, the wintersweet almost didn't blossom. So this year, we were all excited to see them," he said.

The flowers are small, only dots on branches. Their florescence takes about two weeks.

Summer Palace

Where: 19 Xinjiangongmen Lu, Haidian District

Open: 7 am - 5 pm

Tel: 6288 1144

Admission: 20 yuan

Getting there: Take Subway Line 4 to Beigongmen Station or Bus 330, 331, 332, 346, 394, 690 or 718 to Yiheyuan Beigongmen

Red wintersweet at Beijing Grand Garden

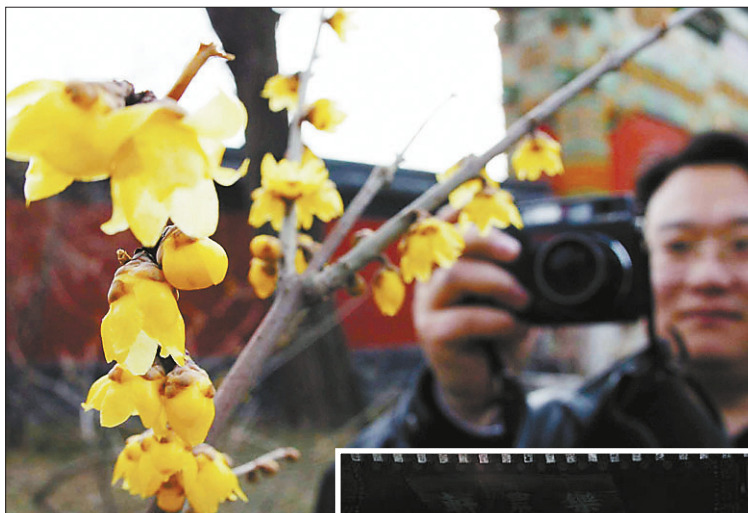
In *A Dream of Red Mansions*, at Longcui Nunnery, Miaoyu's residence, there are several wintersweet shrubs. In one scene, the wintersweet at Longcui Nunnery blossom after a big snowfall. The flowers are red, brilliant under the snow. Jia Baoyu makes a special trip to Miaoyu's to ask for several branches of the red flowers.

When a TV crew and the local government built Beijing Grand Garden as a set for the TV drama in 1984, they planted two red wintersweets.

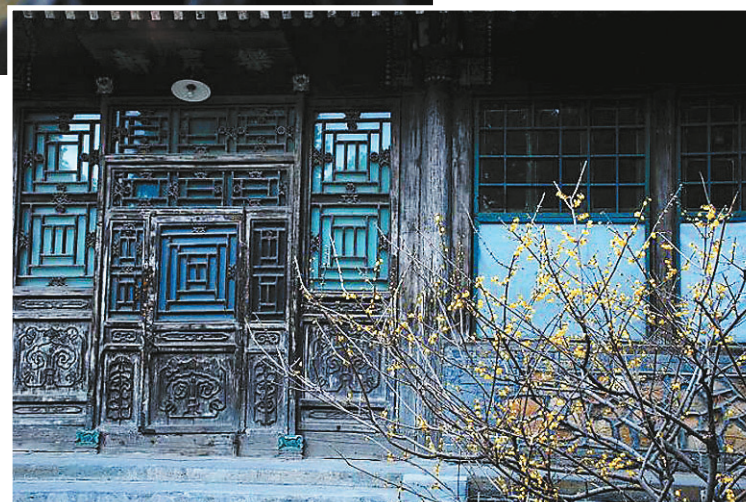
Continued on page 21...



The next two weeks are perfect for seeing wintersweets bloom. CFP Photo



Photography enthusiasts go to parks, gardens and temples to take pictures of the wintersweet's blossoming. CFP Photo



Dozens of wintersweet shrubs in front of the "happy peasant halls" in Summer Palace are now blooming. Photos by Mockingbird

...continued from page 20

Near the west gate of Beijing Grand Garden, beside Longcui Nunnery, sits another important structure in *A Dream of Red Mansions*: Qiushuang Zhai – the residence of Jia Tan-chun, sister of Jia Baoyu. Buddhist Hall is to the west and Meditation Hall is to the east.

The wintersweet growing west of Buddhist Hall are blossoming this week. The blooming is expected to last until the end of next weekend.

In the garden outside the Nunnery are several more wintersweets that might blossom soon.

In late March, apricot, winter jasmine and Yulan magnolia will bloom to greet the late spring.

Beijing Grand Garden

Where: Beijing Grand Garden, 12 Nancai Yuan Jie, Xicheng District

Open: 7:30 am – 5:30 pm

Tel: 6354 4993

Admission: 40 yuan, half price for students

Getting there: Take Bus 49, 56, 59, 122, 351, 395, 474, 721 or 939 to Daguan Yuan.

Wintersweet valley in Fragrant Mountain

South of Glasses Lake in Xiangshan Park is a small valley with some 200 plum trees and 50 wintersweet shrubs. Since both plum and wintersweet are called “mei” in China, the valley was named Meigou.

Every year when the flowers blossom, a burst of fragrance will spread far and wide. Visitors can see a variety of species of plums and wintersweet flowers.

With the weather getting warmer, more people are going out to hike Xiangshan, which is becoming more scenic as flowers bloom by the week.

Fragrant Mountain

Where: Maimai Street, Haidian District

Open: 6 am – 6 pm

Tel: 6259 1264

Admission: 5 yuan

Getting there: Take Bus 318, 331, 360, 634, 696, 698 or 714 to Xiangshan. Or drive along Fifth Ring Road and take the Xiangshan Lu Exit, then drive another five minutes to reach Xiangshan Park.

Sporadic blossoms decorating Zhongshan Park

The nearest place to view the wintersweet flowers is Zhongshan Park, located west of Tian'anmen. At the northwest part of the park is Huifang Garden, where several wintersweets are planted.

They blossomed last week and fully bloom next week. People who are fond of photomicrography can try shooting wintersweet here.

Zhongshan Park

Where: 4 Zhonghua Lu, Dongcheng District

Open: 6 am – 9 pm

Tel: 6605 5431

Admission: 3 yuan; 5 yuan for Huifang Garden

Getting there: Take Bus 1, 10, 37, 52, 205 or 728 to Tian'anmen Xi, or take Subway Line 1 to Tian'anmen West station.

Large area of wintersweet in Yuetan

There are more than 1,000 wintersweet trees planted in Yuetan Park. When they blossom in February or March, it forms a yellow sea of flowers.

Some blossomed last weekend, and they are expected to finish blooming this week, at which time they will emit quite a pleasant and refreshing fragrance.

Yuetan Park

Where: Jia 6 Yuetan Bei Jie, Xicheng District

Open: 6 am – 9 pm

Tel: 6802 0940

Admission: one yuan

Getting there: Take Bus 13, 42, 61, 80, 101, 121, 336, 489 or 603 to Fuchengmen, or take Subway Line 2 to Fuchengmen Station and walk to Yuetan Park.

Blooming before Changguan Building

At Beijing Zoo, there is a two-story European-style building called Changguan Lou, which was built during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) as a resting place for the Guangxu Emperor. In front of the red building are several wintersweet trees. They are now blossoming with small yellow flowers.

Beijing Zoo

Where: 137 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng District

Open: 7:30 am – 5 pm

Tel: 6839 0274

Admission: 10 yuan

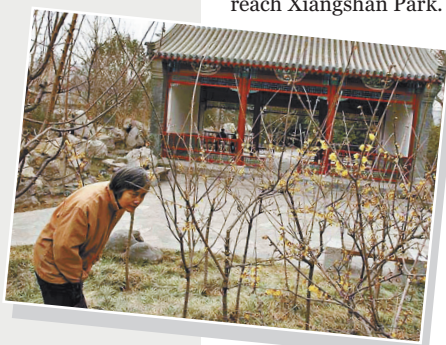
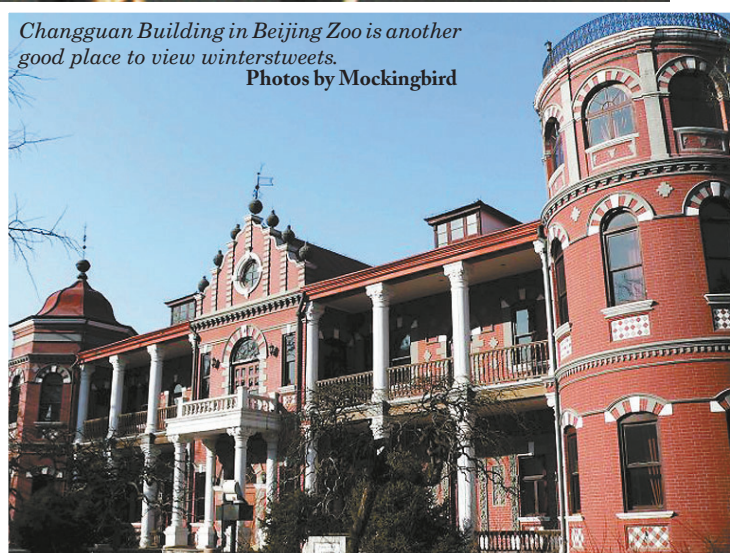
Getting there: Take Bus 27, 45, 87, 105, 107, 111, 347, 614 or 714 to Dongwuyuan, or take Subway Line 4 to Beijing Zoo Station.



The Temple of Reclining Buddha of Beijing Botanical Garden features ancient wintersweets planted during the Tang Dynasty.



Changguan Building in Beijing Zoo is another good place to view wintersweets.
Photos by Mockingbird



Hotel



Exclusive experience at Club Level

Luxurious accommodations, legendary service and breathtaking cityscapes — it's yours to experience with our Club Level Package. Stay a minimum of four nights and get one night complimentary, along with return airport transfer and club privileges.

The club rate costs 3,000 yuan per room per night. The deal is valid until April 30, subject to room availability.

Where: The Ritz-Carlton Beijing, 83A, Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until April 30

Cost: 3,000 yuan per room per night (15 percent gratuity)

Tel: 5908 8888

New director of sales and marketing at Grand Millennium

Mark Xi, a Beijinger, has been a hotelier since

2000 when he took a job at the Xi Yuan Hotel. In April 2003, he parlayed his Catering Sales experience at Shangri-La into a sales manager position at Hilton Beijing. In 2006, he became Senior Sales Manager at Ritz-Carlton Financial Street Beijing. After he did a one-year stint with Sofitel Wanda Beijing he joined the Grand Millennium Beijing as its sales director.

Xi has rich experience in sales and marketing and understands the local market. He is expected to lead Grand Millennium Beijing to become one of the city's preferred 5-star hotels.

Flavors of Portugal cooking classes

Hands-on cooking classes are the best way to explore the unique blend of flavors that is Portuguese food.

The morning class by guest baker Fernando Sousa Marques will teach Portuguese sponge cake from Ovar. The afternoon class about flambéed seafood with mashed bread and fresh coriander will be taught by guest chefs from Tromba Rija. Hilton Kids Cooking Class by guest baker Fernando Sousa Marques teach how to make mini Portuguese coconut tarts.

Where: Morning class, Pastry Kitchen; afternoon class, Main Kitchen; kids cooking class, Vasco's Show Kitchen, Hilton Beijing Wangfujing, 8 Wangfujing Dongjie, Dongcheng District

When: March 12, morning class, 11 am — 12:30 pm; afternoon class, 3-5 pm; kids cooking class, 3-5 pm

Cost: Morning class, 148 yuan or 380 yuan with a lunch buffet (15 percent gratuity); afternoon class, 198 yuan or 420 yuan with a dinner buffet (15 percent gratuity); kids cooking class, 128 yuan or 250 yuan with a dinner buffet (15 percent gratuity).

Dining



Hilton Beijing reveals culinary secrets behind delectable veal

Tantalize your taste buds with the most tender veal dishes the city has ever seen. Hilton Beijing and Shines Group are cooperating to offer a new culinary experience. Through the end of this month, guests can enjoy a variety of delectable veal dishes at the Hilton Beijing's award-winning One East and Elements restaurants.

In addition to sampling some of the most inspired veal dishes in the city, Hilton Beijing will also be offering two veal cooking classes on March 22. Executive Chef Christian Bruhns and his team will be demonstrating the art of preparing a perfect veal dish.

Where: Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until March 31

Cost: One East Veal Sets lunch sets are available for 128 yuan (2-course) or 138 yuan (3-course); dinner sets are 388 yuan (3-course) or 458 yuan (4-course) per person; add 168 yuan for a wine pair-

ing. Elements Buffet of veal dishes is 188 yuan at lunch and 248 yuan at dinner; Hilton Beijing Veal Cooking Classes run from 4-5 pm on March 22 and cost 188 yuan; classes include a dish tasting and one glass of house wine (15 percent gratuity)

Tel: 5865 5030; 5865 5020



Lobsters dishes at Nishimura

For lobster lovers, the new dishes on Nishimura's a la carte menu are sure to fulfill your craving. Three types of lobsters will be available as teppan, sashimi and salad now through March 31.

Where: Nishimura, Shangri-La, Beijing, 29 Zizhuyuan Lu, Haidian District

When: Until March 31

Tel: 6841 2211 ext. 6719

Authentic Sunday roast's anniversary

This March marks the anniversary of One East's authentic American Sunday roast. To celebrate the occasion, One East's culinary team is preparing an exciting new menu with many American culinary classics served every Sunday at noon. Meals will be paired with a complimentary bottle of wine.

The mouthwatering new menu includes chicken and Andouille sausage gumbo and blackened snapper. These dishes and more will be offered as a special three-course menu.

This March, both new foods and beverages will be on the menu. The imported beer list is also being expanded to include more than 20 brands.

Where: One East, Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Every Sunday, noon — 3 pm

Cost: Three-course set lunch, 198 yuan per person; add 98 yuan per person for wine and beer; free to children 6 and under (15 percent gratuity).

Tel: 5865 5030

Email: oneeast.beijing@hilton.com



Surf and Turf at Blu Lobster

Come to Blu Lobster between March 9 to 31 for surf and turf, a combination of the best from the sea and the pasture. The a la carte menu pairs up fish and meat in dishes such as veal oscar, beef lobster and sea bass cassoulet.

Where: Blu Lobster, Shangri-La, Beijing, 29 Zizhuyuan Lu, Haidian District

When: Until March 31

Tel: 6841 2211 ext. 6727

Airline

SilkAir begins flights to Pekanbaru

SilkAir, the regional wing of Singapore Airlines, is offering direct flights between Singapore and Pekanbaru, Indonesia. The inaugural flight, MI 252, departed Singapore Changi Airport at 9:30 am and arrived at Sultan Syarif Kassim II International Airport at 9:35, where a special launch ceremony was held (all times local).

This new thrice-weekly service between Singapore and the capital city of Pekanbaru in Riau province on Sumatra will provide a boost to Pekanbaru tourism amid growing international demand.

Customers on the morning's inaugural flight were presented with special souvenirs. To commemorate the occasion, a water cannon salute ceremony was held to welcome the aircraft on arrival at Pekanbaru. SilkAir's Chief Executive Marvin Tan, who was on the flight, joined local authorities and special guests such as Governor of Riau Bapak H M Rusli.

(By Jackie Zhang)

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Wang Yu at wangyu2008@ynet.com.

Blacklist

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week

Girls gone wild – or not



By Huang Daohen

Expats in Beijing who work with Chinese people from across the country will always encounter pleasant surprises. Locals will be able to tell you about their customs, teach you interesting dialects and, most importantly, introduce you to delicious regional foods.

But the surprises aren't confined to pleasures. My friend Felix, an engineer from Ireland currently working for an American company, got into an embarrassing situation recently.

After the weeklong Spring Festival, Felix received an unexpected gift – local Sichuan snacks packed in a

delicate box – from his Chinese colleague Laura.

Though Laura handed out the gifts to everyone in the office, Felix felt it “a great honor” because he had rarely received gifts since arriving in China three years ago.

When he saw Laura at a meeting, he told her in Chinese, “You've gone wild this vacation.”

Laura's reaction was the opposite of what Felix was hoping for.

“No, I caught a fever and cough, so I could go nowhere but stay at home,” she said, slightly aggravated.

Felix immediately realized he had made a mistake. What he

meant was: “You shouldn't have” – a typical Chinese way of showing courtesy.

The incident made me burst into laughter when Felix related it to me.

The word “wild” means something along the lines of uncivilized, in whatever language.

But Laura was also at fault: she should have guessed that Felix meant she had “spent wildly.” He was referring to her spending spree, not whether she went anywhere over Spring Festival.

In the end, Felix learned his lesson: next time, he'll think a bit more before he speaks.

1. The dance choreographed in stylized gestures.

Professor Zhu Shida (ZS): The dance cannot choreograph itself. It has to be done by a person. So, the passive voice should be used here. It should be: The dance is choreographed in stylized gestures. I have another point to make here. I don't think the word “gesture” is professional in this case. It should be “routine” instead of “gestures.” So, the whole sentence would be: The dance is choreographed in stylized routines, for professional perfection.

Terry Boyd-Zhang (TBZ): Matching the subject (dance) with the verb (choreograph) is tricky, as the professor has said. However, I think “gestures” would be permissible when discussing Japanese butoh, where routines are fragmented and exaggerated.

2. In the last year

ZS: I don't think there is such a phrase “in the last year.” The English people idiomatically say “last year.” People do say “in the previous year,” but not “in the last year.” Idiomatic English would be: last Sunday, last month, last night, last May. People never say “in the last May.” This is living language you have to commit to memory. Sometimes the word “last” can be a noun: I came home the last of March. Please note that there is no preposition before “the last of March.” You will not say “in the last of March.”

TBZ: With a period of time, you have to say “during” the past year. Or follow it with a prepositional phrase: In the last year of the Qing Dynasty ...

3. The middle school and high schools

ZS: I think the writer here is confused with middle school and high school. They are the same thing. Is it funny to repeat the same thing in a sentence? The high school is a six-year system for education in between elementary school and college. So, if you wish to differentiate the first three and the next three years of education, you may say: the junior and senior high schools.

TBZ: I think this depends on location. Growing up, we had public school (primary school, and not Catholic school, grades K-8) and high school (grades 9-13). Middle school is American English for grades 6 to 8 or 7 and 8. It is the exact same as “junior high.”

4. Dog ownership has grown alongside the country's fast-growing well-off.

ZS: “Well-off” is an adjective. It can never be a noun. So, here it is wrong to say “fast-growing well-off.” We will have to find a proper noun for the case. It may be: Dog ownership has grown alongside the country's fast-growing wealth. You have several choices here: well-being, affluence. But “well-off” is never used as a noun. We say “well-off society.”

TBZ: I agree. Sounds like an unsuccessful effort to decrease word count or a lack of vocabulary (or both)!

5. Minister of the Ministry of Finance

ZS: This shows the writer lacks knowledge of political terminology. People just say: the Minister of Finance, or the Ministry of Finance, but never Minister of the Ministry of Finance. It is redundant and unprofessional. Similarly, I sometimes find some beginners write: the ambassador of the Embassy of France to China. It is likewise unprofessional. You just say: the ambassador of France to China. But in the case of councilor, you will have to say: the Councilor of the Embassy of France in Beijing.

TBZ: Titles are difficult to translate because they often carry great cultural weight. However, in the above cases, I agree with the professor.

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to wangyu2008@ynet.com together with your name and address.

No Turning Over Please

By Terry Boyd-Zhang

This is a lovely sign, very clean and neat, well-designed and polite, which makes me sorry to point out any problems with it.

For example, the misuse of capital letters; did we run out of big Os? Or were we over-excited about adding capital Ts and Ps? Better to capitalize them all, I think. Next, why is there no space after the comma? There was room – why squish it together?

Also, the pictogram is cute but, to me, it's unclear. What is Mr. Stick-



man “turning over” anyway? Tricks? Or is he “sitting on the fence” rather than “turning over a new leaf”? The Chinglish isn't terribly helpful. What

should I not turn over?

So, we have to go back to the Chinese. It says: *qing wu fanyue*. Qing, of course, is “please.” You've probably seen it elsewhere. Qing is written with the radical indicating something about language, culture or politeness. Wu means “no, not,” as in “no smoking” and “no entry.” Now for the real problem: fanyue is better translated as “to cross over; to pass over.” So, Don't Cross the Barrier makes more sense and, really, there's no need to be polite about it.

The Fighter

(2010)

Movie of the week

Movies like *The Fighter* exist to show off their supporting actors. Mark Wahlberg may be a good actor, but Christian Bale is a better one. From the superhero who hides in the dark to the former boxing star, every role he plays ultimately becomes another mask associated with his off-screen persona. It's no surprise Bale took home the Oscar for best supporting actor for his performance in this movie.

But aside from the actors, the movie offers little else. The script, adapted from a real story, offers little new. It's still worth a look if you're a fan of director David O. Russell.

Synopsis

Dickie Eklund is the pride of working-class Lowell, Massachusetts. But after suffering a humiliating defeat at the hands of Sugar Ray Leonard, Dickie's life becomes one of addiction, violence and incarceration.

It's up to Micky to fight on his own terms and pull his family out of despair with his meteoric rise in the ring. However, Micky is also confused about his life – the people around him seem to be using him for their own benefit.



Scene 1

(Micky meets Charlene in a bar for the first time.)

Charlene (C): Are you just gonna stand there and stare at my ass? Your father stares at my ass, but he talks to me. Thinks you're the greatest. He didn't tell me you were mute.

Micky (M): He told me you're Kenny Fleming's sister.

C: You pave streets, right?

M: Yeah, I do. And I'm a fighter.

C: Oh, yeah, I heard you were a stepping stone (1).

M: No, I'm no stepping stone.

C: You're the guy they use, against the other fighters to move the other fighters up.

M: I've had a few tough fights, but that's not who I am. The next fight's gonna show who I am.

Dickie (D): Hey, this guy's gonna be champion. He's a great guy. He's a great fighter. You can't go wrong. Thanks for the drink.

M: Those cameras are making a movie about him. He knocked down Sugar Ray Leonard on HBO, that's

why they're following him around with the camera. And now they're making a movie about his comeback.

C: Yeah, everybody's talking about it. But who are you fighting?

M: Saoul Mamby.

C: Saoul Mamby? What kind of name is that?

M: Black and Jewish.

C: Where did they find a guy like that?

M: He's no joke. Former world champ.

C: Former champ?

M: Yeah. I match up good with him though.

C: Yeah? What does that mean?

M: Well, I got lighter (2), you know? I have a reputation for brawling, but I'm not gonna brawl with him. I'm gonna try and out-box him.

C: And there's a difference?

M: Yeah, you know. Brawling, you slug it out (3). I hit you, you hit me. Boxing's a chess game, you know? I pick my punches to take him down. And go head, body, head, body.

C: What is "head, body, head, body"?

M: Well, I hit him in the head, and then his hand's gonna go up to protect himself, so it opens up his body, and then when I hit him in the body, the hand goes back down, I go back up to the head, hand goes back up, hit him in the body. People who don't know fighting think you can do a lot of damage hitting somebody in the head, but you do more hitting them in the body.

So what do you think? Can I take you out?

C: Are you married?

M: No. Would I ask you out if I was married? What kind of guy do you think I am?

C: Happens all the time. Trust me.

M: I'm not like that. I'm not married. I got a daughter. I see her every other weekend. Her name's Kasie. But that's it. Come on. Let me take you out.

C: When?

M: Saturday night. I get back from Atlantic City.

(Charlene writes down her number.)

M: Is this the real number?

C: You have to call it and see.

Scene 2

(Micky takes Charlene to a boring movie.)

C: That's the movie you wanted to see? There wasn't even any good sex in it. Had to read the whole movie. F--- king subtitled. And some guy from a road crew recommended it to you? A subtitled movie? What's going on? What's going on? You got a girlfriend or something? You hiding me from her?

M: I don't have a girlfriend, all right? I ... I like you. I came here 'cause I don't wanna show my face in Lowell. I told everybody I was gonna win that fight and get back on track. I told my daughter I was gonna get a bigger apartment so she can move in.

You don't think I wanted to call you? I was embarrassed. I mean ... I'm sick of being a disappointment. I ...

C: You really think your family's looking out for (4) you?

M: Don't say that about my family.

C: What else can I say after what you told me? I mean, look at your face. Look at you ...

Scene 3

(Micky visits Dickie in jail.)

D: Heard you won a bunch of fights, Mick. That's good.

M: I know you know what I been doing. I'm sure Alice and everybody else told you. To your face, myself. I got new management. Mickey O'Keefe's my trainer now. It's all good.

D: Yeah. They got you fightin' Alfonso Sanchez.

M: On HBO.

D: And you're proud of that?

M: Right.

D: HBO is invested in the Mexican.

M: You didn't think they were gonna be invested in me? I got a shot. I'm gonna take it.

D: Wake up. They don't care if he kills you. Mike Toma did it. He's using you, like a stepping stone for Sanchez. Why don't you see?

M: Oh, I see. How could I stand a chance (5) without the great Dick Eklund in my corner, right? You didn't give a f---k if I got killed by Mungin. Now all of a sudden you're worried Sanchez is gonna hurt me? Why? 'Cause you're stuck in here and can't be the center of attention no more? You need it that bad?

D: I've seen this Mexican fight. He fights, hits like a mule, all right? Fifteen knockouts, undefeated. You crazy? And that taxi cab idiot, Lonano, he went right for it. He's a paper gangster, he's using you to steal money.

M: Why can't you just shut up and be happy for me? I spent the last 10 years of my life in bad fights set up by you and Alice. I finally got a good thing going for me and you can't be happy for me? Why?

D: What's your plan? How you gonna fight Sanchez?

M: I ain't here to talk about that.

D: What's your plan?

M: I am not here to talk about that.

D: What's your plan?

M: You watch the fight and you'll see the plan.



Vocabulary

1. **stepping stone:** a stone one steps on to cross a stream
2. **lighter:** something special
3. **slug it out:** to fight
4. **look out for:** take care of someone
5. **stand a chance:** to have the possibility to win or succeed

(By Wang Yu)